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1. Observer status for the International Chamber of Commerce in the General Assembly [item proposed by France (A/67/191)].
2. Observer status for the European Organization for Nuclear Research in the General Assembly [item proposed by France and Switzerland (A/67/192)].

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Item 114 of the provisional agenda*

Follow-up to the outcome of the Millennium Summit

Strengthening the institutional arrangements for support of gender equality and the empowerment of women

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The present report provides a summary of progress in the implementation of the section of General Assembly resolution 64/289 entitled “Strengthening the institutional arrangements for support of gender equality and the empowerment of women”, by which the Assembly established, as a composite entity, the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, known as UN-Women. The report covers progress with regard to general principles; governance of the Entity; administration and human resources; financing; and transitional arrangements.

* A/67/150.



I. Introduction

1. In its resolution 64/289 on system-wide coherence, the General Assembly established, as a composite entity, the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, known as UN-Women. It requested the Secretary-General to submit a progress report to the Assembly at its sixty-sixth and sixty-seventh sessions on the implementation of the section of the resolution entitled "Strengthening the institutional arrangements for support of gender equality and the empowerment of women". The present report, which is submitted in accordance with that request, covers general principles; governance of the Entity; administration and human resources; financing; and transitional arrangements.
2. In the same resolution, the General Assembly decided to review the work of UN-Women at its sixty-eighth session, and requested the Secretary-General to present to the Assembly at that session a comprehensive report in that regard.
3. A first progress report was submitted to the General Assembly at its sixty-sixth session (A/66/120). The present report provides an update on progress made, with a focus on institutional aspects and challenges two years after the establishment of the Entity and some 18 months after its full operationalization on 1 January 2011.

II. Overall progress

A. General principles

4. Since 1 July 2011, the date on which the previous progress report was finalized, UN-Women has further consolidated the mandates and functions transferred to it from the four former entities engaged in the field of gender equality and the empowerment of women (Office of the Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women and the Division for the Advancement of Women of the Secretariat; the United Nations Development Fund for Women; and the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women). The Entity now operates as a unified whole, where close linkages exist between the normative support provided to intergovernmental bodies, the delivery of operational activities on the ground and the effective exercise of its coordination function. The Entity has taken the lead in United Nations work on gender equality and women's empowerment, giving rise to more effective coordination, coherence and gender mainstreaming throughout the United Nations system.
5. The Entity is working to attain the key goal of gender equality and women's empowerment, in partnership with Member States, the entities of the United Nations system, civil society and other stakeholders. It also advocates the centrality of gender equality and women's empowerment as a means towards accelerated implementation of the United Nations goals in the areas of development, peace and security and human rights. In this respect, the Entity has amply confirmed the relevance and added value of the mandate of UN-Women as a composite entity that integrates normative support and operational and coordination functions.
6. UN-Women has seized opportunities to align progress on gender equality at the global and intergovernmental levels with the provision of on-the-ground support for national development efforts. Through an integrated approach, the Entity is

increasingly delivering specific results in providing support to Member States, at their request, strengthening coherence between its normative support and operational work and leading, coordinating and promoting the accountability of the United Nations system in its work on gender equality and the empowerment of women. These activities are guided by a strategic plan, a strategic framework and budgets approved by relevant intergovernmental bodies.

7. Following the changes introduced by the Committee for Programme and Coordination to the strategic framework for the period 2012-2013 (A/66/16), the strategic framework was adopted, along with the programme budget for the same biennium, by the General Assembly in its resolution 66/246, putting the planning and budgeting frameworks of UN-Women on a solid foundation. The strategic plan of UN-Women for 2011-2013 (UNW/2011/9) was endorsed by its Executive Board in its decision 2011/3. Subsequently, the Board approved, in its decision 2011/5, the institutional budget of UN-Women for 2012-2013 (UNW/2011/11), authorizing funding to support a continued change management process, including a regional architecture review and an organizational efficiency and effectiveness initiative aimed at further strengthening the capacity of the Entity, especially in its work at the country and regional levels. UN-Women is currently engaged in the preparatory phase for the forthcoming biennial budget proposals.

8. The Entity's progress in delivering on its mandates and priorities has been highlighted in reports of the Under-Secretary-General/Executive Director to the Commission on the Status of Women (E/CN.6/2012/2) and the Executive Board of UN-Women (UNW/2012/1), as mandated by the General Assembly in its resolution 64/289. These and other reports to intergovernmental bodies presented a holistic picture of the work of the Entity and of the impact and results achieved through the integration of all its mandates and functions.

9. Significant results have been achieved in six key areas of focus of UN-Women: increasing women's leadership and participation in all areas that affect their lives; increasing women's access to economic empowerment and opportunities, especially for the most excluded; preventing violence against women and girls and expanding access to survivor services; increasing women's leadership in peace and security and humanitarian response; strengthening the responsiveness of plans and budgets to gender equality at all levels; and supporting the development of global norms, policies and standards on gender equality and women's empowerment. Significant results have also been achieved with regard to management and organizational effectiveness.

10. During the reporting period, UN-Women made full use of national and global partnerships to promote space for women's participation in electoral processes. For example, in Egypt, its advocacy efforts and voter outreach contributed to the number of women voting in the 2011 parliamentary elections increasing from 40 per cent to some 46 per cent. Economic empowerment was the main programmatic growth area for UN-Women in 2011, with the focus shifting from economic security and smaller projects to interventions targeting structural issues, including women's access to productive assets, markets, services and decent work. For example, in Ethiopia, a joint programme on gender equality led by UN-Women provided support to the Federal Micro and Small Enterprise Agency, including the training of almost 4,000 women in marketing and business management skills and more than 5,000 women in initiating business engagements or expanding their businesses. In an

effort to put an end to violence against women, UN-Women supported policy and legal reforms, new national action plans and improved service-delivery standards in 37 countries. It took advantage of its new role as system-wide lead on gender equality to promote the involvement of women in peace and security, such as by supporting consultations that afforded women in 15 countries the opportunity to speak directly to senior United Nations officials. Lastly, UN-Women supported the incorporation of gender-sensitive, sector-specific targets and performance indicators into plans and budgets to facilitate the measuring of progress and to ensure accountability in implementation, linking them to the implementation of normative frameworks. For example, following the provision by UN-Women of technical assistance, Ethiopia published a national plan including gender indicators and targets, while Albania, Pakistan and the United Republic of Tanzania included gender-sensitive indicators in the performance monitoring frameworks of Government institutions.

11. The need to draw on the synergy between normative and operational efforts for gender equality and women's empowerment underpins the mandate of UN-Women. In 2011, the Entity laid the foundations of its approach with a four-pronged strategy. First, it used intergovernmental forums focusing specifically on gender equality to reaffirm and strengthen existing norms and standards, highlight gaps in implementation and formulate policy recommendations in, for example, the Commission on the Status of Women and the Economic and Social Council. Second, it promoted gender perspectives in major United Nations and other agenda-setting processes, such as the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries and the preparations for the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development. Third, it consistently pushed for gender equality and women's empowerment to be considered both cross-cutting and stand-alone issues central to development, human rights and peace and security. Fourth, it increasingly drew on evidence and experience acquired at the country level, through partnerships with Member States, civil society organizations and United Nations agencies and through UN-Women knowledge and advocacy functions, including capacity-development efforts with Governments and national actors.

12. A side event during the sixty-sixth session of the General Assembly at which women Heads of Government issued a joint statement on women's political participation exemplified the informal processes used by UN-Women to enhance intergovernmental outcomes. Discussions at that side event encouraged the adoption of Assembly resolution 66/130 on women and political participation. That resolution, together with other legislative mandates on the topic, provided a strong framework for the operational activities of UN-Women in the key focus area of women's leadership and participation. Similarly, UN-Women used the preparations for the Assembly's discussion of the situation of women in rural areas and for the priority theme of the fifty-sixth session of the Commission on the Status of Women (the empowerment of rural women and their role in poverty and hunger eradication, development and current challenges) to forge a new joint programme with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the International Fund for Agricultural Development and the World Food Programme (WFP) on accelerating progress towards the economic empowerment of rural women. This joint programme contributes to the implementation of Assembly resolution 66/129 on improvement of the situation of women in rural areas.

B. Coordination role of the Entity

13. Over the past year, UN-Women made significant progress in driving more effective and efficient coordination within the United Nations system and in building strategic partnerships to promote gender equality and women's empowerment. It took full advantage of its leadership role with the aim of enhancing coherence and mobilizing joint action, increasing system-wide gender mainstreaming, developing and applying accountability frameworks and improving gender balance and the status of women in the United Nations system.

14. Results were achieved at several levels. The membership of UN-Women in coordination mechanisms such as the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination and its three pillars (the High-level Committee on Programmes, the High-level Committee on Management and the United Nations Development Group) resulted in increased attention being paid to the gender dimensions of key policy issues. Such attention was visible in the statement by the Chief Executives Board to the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, held in Istanbul, Turkey, in May 2011, in which it acknowledged the need to achieve gender equality and empower women in least developed countries.

15. A major achievement in terms of coordination and leadership was the development of a system-wide action plan on gender equality and women's empowerment, which was reviewed by the Chief Executives Board in April 2012, paving the way for its implementation. The action plan was developed in a collaborative and consultative process and included a pilot phase with a limited number of entities to ensure its applicability and usefulness. It constitutes a unified accountability framework for all United Nations system entities, applying a scorecard approach and establishing minimum requirements or standards for gender mainstreaming based on intergovernmental mandates. It covers results-based management; financial and human resources, including equal representation of women; capacity development; oversight; evaluation; monitoring and reporting; and knowledge generation and management. Its roll-out phase over the coming year will be critical in ensuring that it delivers specific results. UN-Women will support United Nations entities in their efforts to invest in its implementation, insofar as is feasible.

16. As the Chair of and secretariat for the Inter-Agency Network on Women and Gender Equality, UN-Women played a key role in promoting and advocating coordinated United Nations system positions and action on gender equality and stronger and more systematic gender mainstreaming in all policies and programmes. United Nations entities successfully provided a joint statement on the empowerment of rural women to the Commission on the Status of Women at its fifty-sixth session. The Network's task force on rural women produced a fact sheet on rural women and the Millennium Development Goals, which supported the Commission's deliberations with data, evidence and examples of good practice.¹

17. UN-Women worked with other inter-agency mechanisms led or convened by entities of the United Nations system to strengthen their capacity to reflect gender perspectives within their mandates. Key examples are the Entity's contribution to

¹ Available from www.un.org/womenwatch/feature/ruralwomen/documents/En-Rural-Women-MDGs-web.pdf.

ensuring a strong focus on gender equality in the overall advocacy of the United Nations in the Fourth High-level Forum on Aid Effectiveness, held in Busan, Republic of Korea, from 29 November to 1 December 2011, and the follow-up process for defining a global monitoring framework, in addition to the Busan Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation.

18. In accordance with paragraph 56 of General Assembly resolution 64/289, UN-Women is working at the country level as part of the resident coordinator system and has assumed a leadership role in coordinating work on gender equality. It is currently chairing or co-chairing gender theme groups in 45 countries and has contributed to the development of United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks in some 20 countries. UN-Women has offices in all eight "Delivering as one" pilot countries and is working closely with the resident coordinators and the United Nations country teams.

19. Participation in joint programmes with partner agencies at the country level provides significant opportunities for UN-Women to push for gender equality. The Entity is currently active in 106 such programmes that cover key areas of focus, including ending violence against women, strengthening gender perspectives in national planning, women's economic empowerment, and conflict prevention and social cohesion.

20. UN-Women has also expanded and strengthened its partnerships with individual United Nations entities to promote gender equality and women's empowerment. In December 2011, the executive directors of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and UN-Women sent a joint letter to the field representatives of both entities, reaffirming each entity's commitment to gender equality programming within their mandates and areas of strength. In May 2012, UN-Women and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization signed a letter of cooperation to advance gender equality and women's empowerment.

21. UN-Women became the latest member of H4+ in 2012, joining UNFPA, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the World Health Organization, the World Bank and the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS. The group provides coordinated and harmonized support for the implementation of the Global Strategy for Women's and Children's Health by collectively supporting countries with the highest rates of maternal, newborn and child mortality and working to accelerate progress in saving the lives and improving the health of women and newborns, and, in so doing, achieve the targets of the Millennium Development Goals. The role of UN-Women will be primarily one of advocacy, focused on tackling the root causes of maternal mortality.

22. UN-Women continued to lead and coordinate the Secretary-General's campaign "UNiTE to End Violence Against Women", including through efforts to implement strategies and activities at the global, regional and national levels, working closely with the members of the working group on the campaign established by the Inter-Agency Network on Women and Gender Equality. A survey of the activities undertaken as part of the campaign, in particular at the national level, suggests that the United Nations system is adopting a shared and coherent approach in its work to prevent and eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls. Many United Nations resident coordinators now lead their country teams

in the development of joint programming and activities in furtherance of the goals of the campaign.

23. UN-Women also expanded inter-agency partnerships at the regional level. For example, in Latin America and the Caribbean, UN-Women is working with FAO and the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean to develop case studies and policy recommendations to empower women in rural areas.

C. Interaction with civil society and other stakeholders

24. Over the past year, UN-Women consolidated and expanded the practice of effective consultation and partnerships with non-governmental and civil society organizations in advancing shared objectives in promoting women's rights, gender equality and women's empowerment.

25. Following extensive consultations with civil society networks and nominations from such organizations, the Under-Secretary-General/Executive Director of UN-Women appointed a global civil society advisory group in April 2012. The group will serve as a forum for dialogue and sustained and structured engagement with civil society leaders to advance the goals of gender equality and women's empowerment. The 21 members include leaders of grass-roots, rural and community-based groups, indigenous people's organizations, academics, activists and male leaders working on gender equality and women's rights issues. Membership will be on a rotational basis, with members serving for two years.

26. Regional and national civil society advisory groups are currently being set up and will follow the same principles of purpose and composition. The advisory group for Latin America and the Caribbean was set up in May 2012 and the country group for Pakistan in July 2012.

27. The establishment of the Global Civil Society Advisory Group marked a high point in a year characterized by continued efforts by UN-Women to strengthen consultation with non-governmental and civil society organizations, as requested by the General Assembly in paragraph 55 of its resolution 64/289. UN-Women continued to support civil society participation in intergovernmental processes. Through increased outreach, the Entity enabled non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council to better contribute to substantive discussions at the fifty-sixth session of the Commission on the Status of Women. A total of 2,084 representatives of 435 non-governmental organizations participated in the session. They submitted 74 written statements, delivered 12 oral statements in the general discussion and made 27 interventions during interactive expert panels. UN-Women also worked to create opportunities for interaction between members of the Bureau of the Commission and representatives of civil society, both in the lead-up to, and during, the session, so as to enhance the sharing of views.

28. UN-Women also facilitated the participation of non-governmental organizations in the work of the Executive Board. Representatives of 24 such organizations attended the past three sessions (December 2011, January 2012 and May/June 2012), with several making statements on agenda items pertaining to the UN-Women strategic plan and its implementation. They welcomed the increased consultations and partnerships with UN-Women that contributed to the

implementation of the strategic plan, in addition to cooperation at various levels to promote gender equality.

29. UN-Women also strengthened collaboration and coordination with the United Nations system on partnerships with civil society. The Entity now participates in civil society coordination and knowledge-sharing processes of United Nations entities, which will create additional opportunities for outreach to civil society on key issues on the global agenda, such as discussions on the post-2015 development agenda. UN-Women also joined the global Inter-Agency Support Group on Indigenous Peoples' Issues, where it will work to highlight gender equality issues.

30. In an effort to accelerate progress towards the goal of gender equality and women's empowerment, UN-Women fostered partnerships with many other stakeholders, including academic institutions, the media and the business community. Private-sector partnerships were formed with a number of companies and groups, including Avon, Coca-Cola, Johnson & Johnson and Tag Heuer. UN-Women began to work with Microsoft to use information and communications technology for economic and political empowerment programmes for women, improved data, awareness-raising and advocacy.

D. Knowledge hub function of the Entity

31. UN-Women expanded its capacity to serve as a global knowledge hub, through research, analysis and sharing of evidence and lessons learned with regard to the promotion of gender equality and women's empowerment in areas such as women's political participation, women's economic empowerment, women's role in peace and security and ending violence against women. This function also encompasses the identification, development and dissemination of methodologies, tools and examples of good practice. Through this function, the Entity provides evidence-based analysis to support intergovernmental discussion and decision-making. It also provides technical and advisory services to Member States, at their request. Research and analysis increasingly also support the coordination function of UN-Women.

32. Research carried out by UN-Women is benefiting from experience acquired and lessons learned from the Entity's operational work. Examples of good practice in the promotion of gender equality, in addition to better understanding of implementation gaps and challenges, are being channelled back more consistently to intergovernmental bodies through reports, databases and other knowledge products. UN-Women communities of practice will increasingly be called upon to ensure that the operational work of the Entity and its partners in the United Nations system can substantively inform preparations for intergovernmental meetings, such as the fifty-seventh session of the Commission on the Status of Women and its priority and review themes.

33. One recent achievement towards strengthening the knowledge hub function of UN-Women was the securing of funding for the Evidence and Data for Gender Equality initiative, a major new partnership with the United Nations Statistics Division, in collaboration with the World Bank, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development and partner Governments. Initially working with six pilot countries, this initiative aims to improve the quality and availability of data on key gender equality indicators in relation to education, assets, employment and

health. It directly benefits the pilot countries as it contributes to a better understanding of implementation gaps and enhances evidence-based policymaking.

34. During the period under review, progress was made in establishing the UN-Women training centre in Santo Domingo as the leading United Nations centre of excellence in gender equality training. Its long-term objectives include contributing to the development of the training component of the UN-Women capacity development strategy; strengthening coordination within the United Nations system and with key international partners to advance women's rights and gender equality; and contributing to building the technical capacity of the United Nations and its partners in priority areas.

35. In its first annual workplan, for 2012, the centre aims to establish its foundations and develop its first curriculum, focusing on the priority areas of the UN-Women strategic plan such as ending violence against women. Particular emphasis is being laid on system-wide coordination, including the implementation of the system-wide action plan and the creation of a basic training module on gender equality and the empowerment of women. The centre will serve Government officials, civil society and United Nations staff.

36. New intranet and extranet systems enable knowledge to be shared internally and with partners throughout the United Nations system. Several communities of practice have been established to share information and to foster, share and compile examples of good practice, including one for use by the Inter-agency Network on Women and Gender Equality and another for use by UN-Women staff, both at headquarters and in the field, on work pertaining to the post-2015 development agenda. Additional communities of practice will follow, including on ending violence against women, which will build on and further extend the reach of the Virtual Knowledge Centre to End Violence against Women and Girls and access to the Secretary-General's database on violence against women.

37. To support collaboration and the sharing of knowledge, UN-Women established a knowledge management platform (intranet and extranet) that is fully operational and already widely used at its headquarters. Further roll-out to field offices will begin in the second half of 2012. The platform supports activities in terms of gaining access to and working with the most suitable people, information and knowledge at the most suitable time; building the UN-Women knowledge base and partnerships through new channels of interaction, collaboration and influence; and enhancing communications and business performance. Its features include the collection and presentation of corporate content, spaces and networks around the Entity's areas of work; flexible collaborative spaces (internal or with external partners); and personalized knowledge resources through keyword alerts, colleague networking and profiles.

38. The functionality of the platform currently extends to content management (e.g. repositories, permissions, document versioning and availability when out of the office), improved search and retrieval (e.g. search engine and tagging), networking and communication (e.g. announcements and discussion forums) and business productivity (e.g. calendaring, contact, management, e-registry and automated workflows). The platform is based on templates so as to create a common experience and to facilitate roll-out throughout the Entity. It is user-friendly, configurable by focal points and integrated with Microsoft Office.

E. External communications

39. During the past year, UN-Women enhanced its external communications to increase the scope and impact of its gender equality and women's empowerment advocacy efforts. The Entity expanded its regular media contacts to more than 1,600 media outlets worldwide. Its corporate online presence grew threefold in 2011 to more than 220,000 visits per month and its social media followership reached an audience of 300,000. Particular emphasis was laid on strengthening collaboration and coordination between UN-Women headquarters and field offices to extend the reach of those efforts at the national level.

40. Media outreach by UN-Women generated extensive coverage of the fifty-sixth session of the Commission on the Status of Women and International Women's Day 2012. The International Women's Day 2012 message by the Under-Secretary-General/Executive Director of UN-Women was picked up or quoted in more than 800 media outlets. In addition, for the first time, the Entity integrated social media into its coverage of the Commission through its use of a Twitter account. Each day, the hashtag "#CSW56" created an average of 5 million impressions and reached more than 2 million unique followers. On Facebook, posts about the Commission were seen by more than 130,000 people.

41. Such global efforts are increasingly complemented by the strategic expansion of media partnerships at the regional and national levels. For example, in the Andean region, UN-Women worked with 40 print, television and radio partners to increase coverage of gender equality. The Entity sponsored television and radio spots on voter education in Egypt that aired widely on national channels.

42. UN-Women also works with partners to expand its advocacy reach in thematic focus areas. For example, through its social mobilization platform "Say NO — UNiTE to End Violence against Women", the Entity forged a partnership with the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts to develop an informal curriculum on ending violence against women. Campaigns in the Caribbean and South Asia engaged artists and young people in efforts to end violence against women.

UN-Women engagement with the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development process

The engagement of UN-Women in the preparations for, and during, the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 20 to 22 June 2012, exemplifies the Entity's consolidated implementation, in the context of a major intergovernmental process, of all its functions in order to enhance gender equality outcomes.

Through its normative support function, UN-Women contributed to ensuring that gender equality and women's empowerment were recognized as key priorities in "The future we want", the title given to the outcome document of the Conference, which was endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 66/288, and that gender equality considerations and references featured throughout. Consequently, emphasis is laid in the outcome document on women's vital role and leadership in achieving sustainable development in its three dimensions — economic, social and environmental.

In the lead-up to the Conference, UN-Women used its knowledge-hub function to build a case for attaining the goal of gender equality and for advancing women's rights and leadership in sustainable development. It provided policy input, including a substantive contribution to the draft outcome document.

Through its coordination function, UN-Women successfully engaged with the Chief Executives Board so that gender equality and women's empowerment featured prominently in two joint statements addressed to the Conference, issued in October 2011 and April 2012. The Entity also worked through the Inter-Agency Network on Women and Gender Equality to ensure coherence throughout the United Nations system in its advocacy for gender equality in the context of sustainable development. The resulting key messages, which benefited from contributing organizations' comparative advantage in specific sectors, were circulated to Member States and other stakeholders.

Advocacy activities and outreach were undertaken to mobilize stakeholders and highlight the importance of the promotion of gender equality in the context of sustainable development. UN-Women effectively interacted with civil society organizations, in particular the women's major group, throughout the negotiation process to advocate a strong and prominent reflection of gender equality issues in the outcome document. It facilitated the participation of grass-roots and other civil society organizations in the preparatory phase, in addition to raising resources to support the participation of some 30 civil society representatives in the Conference itself.

At the Conference, UN-Women brought together representatives of Governments, civil society, United Nations agencies and the private sector for two important side events, entitled "Leaders' forum" and "Women leaders' summit on the future women want", respectively. The former provided a space for dialogue on gender equality and women's empowerment and sustainability, highlighting policies that could improve women's lives by reducing poverty, advancing their economic opportunities and protecting them from adverse health and environmental challenges. At the latter, six women Heads of State and Government signed a call to action in which they urged Governments, civil society and the private sector to accord priority to gender equality and women's empowerment in the sustainable development agenda.

Through extensive external communications, UN-Women disseminated and publicized key messages and championed the centrality of gender equality in sustainable development. The media, social media and other online communities were used to reinforce the Entity's key messages. Outreach to leading international media outlets resulted in several thousand replications in at least 84 countries on all continents. More than 1,500 tweets from 500 people created 36 million impressions and reached 5 million unique users. On 13 June, a live chat about women and sustainable development on Twitter using the hashtag "#AskUNWomen" reached 3.3 million unique users. A dedicated section of the UN-Women website collated close to 100 multimedia news and

feature items to provide timely and relevant information. The UN-Women website registered a 12 per cent increase in hits during the Conference.

UN-Women integrated its operational experiences into all aspects of its contribution to the Conference process and will actively participate in follow-up and implementation. Evidence and examples of good practice from the key focus areas of UN-Women, especially in relation to women's economic empowerment and leadership, enriched analysis of linkages between gender equality and sustainability. As part of the Conference outcome, UN-Women registered several existing and planned programmes as its voluntary commitments* to contribute to the implementation of the sustainable development agenda. These include the joint programme of UN-Women, FAO, the International Fund for Agricultural Development and WFP on accelerating progress towards the economic empowerment of rural women; the UN-Women, United Nations Environment Programme and Peacebuilding Support Office partnership on women's engagement in natural resources management; the UN-Women project to develop a knowledge gateway on women's economic empowerment; and programmes relating to disaster risk reduction and climate change in Bangladesh, China, Pakistan and the Pacific islands.

* The Conference secretariat created an online registry for voluntary commitments by all stakeholders — major groups, the United Nations system and Member States — to push forward the sustainable development agenda. In the outcome document, the Secretary-General is invited to compile the voluntary commitments in an Internet-based registry to make them fully transparent and accessible to the public. See www.unecd2012.org/allcommitments.html.

III. Governance of the Entity

43. During the period under review, the governance structure for UN-Women set up by the General Assembly in paragraph 57 of its resolution 64/289 continued to provide effective normative and operational policy guidance to the Entity. Member States participated extremely actively, and at a high level, in the work of the Commission on the Status of Women and the Executive Board of UN-Women. While the question of the working relationship between the Commission and the Executive Board continued to be a topic of informal exchanges among delegations, a formal decision of the Economic and Social Council, as mandated in paragraph 67 (b) of resolution 64/289, remains pending.

A. Executive Board

44. Since the completion of the previous report, the Executive Board has taken key decisions that have further strengthened the Entity's capacity to expand demand-driven support to Member States at the national level. Its approval, in its decision 2011/5, of a gross appropriation of \$140.8 million for the institutional budget for 2012-2013 provided the resources needed to implement the strategic plan for 2011-

2013. Decisions adopted by the Executive Board at its annual session of 2012, held from 29 May to 1 June, in particular those on the implementation of the strategic plan for 2011-2013 (decision 2012/2) and on the UN-Women regional architecture (decision 2012/4), provided further guidance and strengthened the basis for the operational activities and organizational effectiveness of UN-Women.

45. The Executive Board participated for the second time in the joint meeting of the executive boards of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), UNFPA, the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS), UNICEF, UN-Women and WFP, held on 30 and 31 January 2012. Members of the Bureau of the Executive Board participated in a joint field visit of the members of those executive boards to Djibouti, from 18 to 22 March 2012, and to Ethiopia, from 22 to 31 March 2012. The purpose of the visits was to assess how the United Nations country teams were operating and coordinating in the countries and how the United Nations was supporting Government priorities in tackling humanitarian and development challenges. Djibouti, a least developed country, was selected because of its efforts to attain the Millennium Development Goals in the face of continuing humanitarian and development challenges in the areas of food security, climate change, environment, energy and water. In the case of Ethiopia, attention was also paid to the interaction between United Nations agencies and the Government and other development partners.

B. Commission on the Status of Women

46. UN-Women used the preparatory process for the fifty-sixth session of the Commission on the Status of Women (27 February to 9 March 2012, with an additional meeting on 15 March to complete the work of the session) to further strengthen coherence and linkages between its normative support role and its operational activities on the ground. The experience, expertise and examples of good practice from its field offices were channelled into the analysis presented to the Commission, especially with regard to the priority and review themes of the session. The efforts also helped to expand the capacity of UN-Women to offer technical and thematic advice on the implementation of global norms and standards on gender equality and women's empowerment. UN-Women supported the Commission in all aspects of its session, including a general discussion, a high-level round-table discussion and six interactive panel discussions. The Commission adopted six resolutions and one decision.

47. UN-Women is increasing its preparatory work in an effort to create a conducive environment for a successful fifty-seventh session, including through greater involvement of its field offices and outreach to Member States, entities of the United Nations system and civil society organizations. At that session, the Commission will consider as its priority theme the elimination and prevention of all forms of violence against women and girls and as its review theme the equal sharing of responsibilities between women and men, including caregiving in the context of HIV/AIDS. It will discuss the possibility of conducting a review and appraisal of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action in 2015, and decide on future priority themes.

C. Working relationship between the Commission on the Status of Women and the Executive Board of the Entity

48. In its resolution 64/289, emphasizing the need to establish specific results-based reporting mechanisms, in addition to the need for coherence, consistency and coordination between the normative and operational aspects of the work of UN-Women, the General Assembly requested the Commission on the Status of Women and the Executive Board of the Entity to work closely together to provide coherent guidance and direction in their respective areas. It also requested the Economic and Social Council to establish appropriate and concrete linkages between the Commission and the Executive Board in order to ensure consistency between the overall policy guidance set by the Commission and the operational strategies and operational activities approved by the Executive Board.

49. The process was initiated by the intergovernmental bodies concerned in January 2011, when the outgoing President of the Economic and Social Council convened an informal meeting of the Council Bureau with the bureaux of the Commission and of the Executive Board, with the participation of the Under-Secretary-General/Executive Director of UN-Women. Subsequently, exchanges of views took place within the bureaux of the Commission and of the Executive Board, between the two bureaux and between the Bureau of the Council and the presiding officers of the Commission and the Executive Board. At its substantive session, in July 2012, the Council is expected to take further steps towards implementing the request of the General Assembly.

IV. Administration and human resources

50. UN-Women became fully operational on 1 January 2011, having completed the transitional arrangements outlined in paragraphs 81 to 88 of resolution 64/289. Its move to its new offices in New York (at 220 East 42nd Street) was completed in November 2011, although a small contingent of staff remains at another location until the expiration of the existing lease for those premises. The co-location of headquarters staff from the four constituent entities contributed to the emergence of a strong team spirit to vigorously work towards the mandate accorded to the Entity by the General Assembly.

51. The effective functioning of UN-Women is supported by uniform technology infrastructure for all personnel. Outdated equipment has been replaced and standardized throughout the Entity and desktop software updated. UN-Women is now realigning its central systems and websites. A platform has been established for videoconferences with field offices by drawing upon existing infrastructure elements.

52. Further progress has been made in strengthening the human resources of UN-Women since the completion of the previous progress report. All the members of the senior management team were appointed in June 2011 and had assumed their respective duties by September 2011. With the consolidation of four entities into UN-Women and the alignment exercise for headquarters staff positions, a two-phased competitive selection process was opened to internal and external candidates to fill unaligned, new, vacant and established core positions at headquarters (see A/66/120, paras. 44-46). Since then, strategic human resources management has

remained a priority and further progress has been made in strengthening the human resources of UN-Women and in addressing legacy issues pertaining to contract types and an overreliance on short-term contracts for full-time functions. The outcome of the internal competitive selection process was announced in August 2011, and 29 of the 39 positions were filled by internal candidates. In 2011, recruitment was finalized for 114 posts and initiated for 57 posts. Women comprise 80 per cent of the staff of UN-Women.

53. The consolidation process involving field positions was initiated in mid-2011. The field offices in 33 countries and areas were strengthened on the basis of a field capacity assessment conducted in early 2011 and in line with the UN-Women strategic plan. The reconfiguration of the regional structures of the Entity was initiated in late 2011 and will be carried out in 2012 and 2013, thereby completing the implementation of its structural design.

54. UN-Women commissioned an external study of options for its regional architecture, including lessons learned from other organizations both within and outside the United Nations system, leading to the identification of the key elements of a new regional architecture for UN-Women that will better support Member States and enable UN-Women to use the United Nations system to maximum advantage with a view to achieving gender equality and women's empowerment, through consultations with Member States, civil society partners, United Nations agencies and UN-Women staff.

55. The new regional architecture shifts decision-making and policy, programmatic and operational support to regional centres and a select set of multi-country offices. This will enable UN-Women to achieve its vision and tackle structural challenges, including procedural inefficiencies, by simplifying and expediting oversight and decision-making in support of country offices. The architecture will also empower senior leaders in the field to make strategic decisions that are responsive to national and regional priorities and ensure effective cooperation with the United Nations system. A change management implementation plan for the new regional architecture is being developed to guide UN-Women through these decisions and their implementation.

56. UN-Women continued to invest in strengthening the cohesiveness of its workforce and in expanding learning opportunities for its staff in order to deal with variations in capacity throughout the system. A retreat for leaders and managers in early 2012 brought together staff from both headquarters and the field to strengthen the leadership of UN-Women as a team, including links between headquarters and the field and between normative, operational and coordination functions, and to identify specific steps to deliver organizational improvements. Learning, training and staff development initiatives were launched to support areas such as learning needs analysis, operational management, work planning and evaluation, and implementation of wellness and work-life balance policies.

57. Since June 2011, steps have been taken towards securing adequate staff representation for UN-Women through a transparent and participatory process. Town hall meetings and brown-bag sessions with staff representatives of the United Nations Staff Union and the UNDP/UNFPA/UNOPS Staff Council enabled all interested staff to be informed about and discuss available options. These meetings were complemented by online resources. The process is expected to be completed

by the end of 2012 with a final decision that will consider the best option for staff representation, both at headquarters and in the field.

V. Financing

A. Regular budget resources

58. In its resolution 66/246, the General Assembly approved the proposed programme budget of UN-Women for the biennium 2012-2013 (A/66/6 (Sect. 17)), which had been prepared in accordance with the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation (ST/SGB/2000/8). In particular, the Assembly approved an increase of two posts for programme support: one Administrative Officer and one Budget and Finance Officer.

59. Pursuant to the request of the General Assembly in its resolution 65/259, the proposed programme budget for 2014-2015 will elaborate on the normative intergovernmental processes undertaken by UN-Women to implement its mandate, as referred to in paragraph 75 of resolution 64/289. This elaboration will be based on the experience acquired by UN-Women since becoming fully operational in January 2011 in finding the most effective ways to deliver its mandates and functions and to meet evolving needs.

60. Pursuant to the approval by the General Assembly of the use of a grant arrangement pertaining to the regular budget portion of UN-Women, the Entity continued to use that modality smoothly and effectively. Following issuance of an allotment advice of \$6,957,100 by the Programme Planning and Budget Division of the Secretariat for 2011, UN-Women consistently received the approved resources from the Treasury, enabling it to properly pay for authorized expenses. By the end of 2011, UN-Women reported expenditure incurred and reported in the amount of \$6,113,565, resulting in overpayment of \$843,535. That amount has since been recovered from remittances in respect of the 2012 budget.

B. Voluntary resources

61. In its decision 2011/5, the Executive Board approved the Entity's institutional budget for the biennium 2012-2013 in the amount of \$140.8 million. Those resources underpin the implementation of the strategic plan, which was endorsed by the Executive Board in its decision 2011/3. The resources will enable the Entity to achieve results by providing high-quality technical expertise, making full use of resources, developing partnerships, brokering knowledge, engaging in advocacy and influence, and building capacity, thereby contributing to changing the lives of women and girls on the ground. Specifically, they strengthen the capacity of UN-Women to support countries in their pursuit of nationally owned priorities in gender equality and the empowerment of women. The resources will also support the phased development of 21 new country presences during the period 2012-2013, in addition to the strengthening of capacity in the 17 country presences for which the Executive Board approved institutional budget resources in 2011. Limited strengthening of headquarters capacity will contribute primarily to overcoming gaps

in core institutional functions and support the programmatic priorities of the strategic plan.

62. The financial regulations and rules for UN-Women (UNW/2011/5/Rev.1) became effective as from 8 April 2011, following their adoption by the Executive Board of UN-Women in its decision 2011/2. In its decision 2012/3, the Executive Board approved proposed amendments to the financial regulations and took note of the amended financial rules based on the International Public Sector Accounting Standards and harmonized cost classifications under the integrated budget.

63. Improved returns from resource mobilization were realized in 2011. The new resource mobilization strategy, which includes outreach to the private sector and articulation of a business case for contributing to the Entity, drove higher support for core resources, with more donors increasing their core support to \$10 million or higher, and an increase in non-traditional donor support. In addition, the number of Government donors increased from 107 to 116 during the year.

64. Core resources increased from \$78 million in 2010 to \$125 million in 2011 (60 per cent), reflecting donor commitment to the work and mandate of UN-Women, the global financial constraints notwithstanding. As to non-core funds, a total of \$103 million was received in 2011, an increase of \$6 million (6 per cent) compared to 2010. This includes contributions to the United Nations Trust Fund in Support of Actions to Eliminate Violence against Women and the Fund for Gender Equality. The combined core and non-core funds remained below earlier targets, however. In particular, targets for 2012 and 2013 were reduced from the \$500 million per annum in the Secretary-General's comprehensive proposal (A/64/588, para. 47) and the \$900 million for 2012-2013 projected in the previous progress report (A/66/120, para. 58) to a total of \$700 million for the biennium.

65. Relatively new donors such as Gabon, India, Indonesia, Nigeria and the United Arab Emirates were among those pledging and providing substantial contributions, some of them of \$1 million or more (India and the United Arab Emirates). Several other donors increased their core support to UN-Women: Spain contributed more than \$25 million; Norway and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland some \$15 million; and Australia and Canada close to \$10 million. Several Member States significantly increased their core contributions, such as Denmark, Finland, the Netherlands, the Republic of Korea, Sweden and Switzerland. About one third of the 116 Member States that contributed to core resources made multi-year pledges.

66. UN-Women strengthened the mobilization of resources from foundations, receiving grants of \$1,233,000 in 2011. The Entity also supported the capacity development of its 18 national committees, which increased their activities. For example, the Australian committee organized 350 events around International Women's Day, with proceeds benefiting UN-Women projects in the Pacific. The United States committee held walks to end violence against women, with proceeds donated to the Trust Fund in Support of Actions to Eliminate Violence against Women. The Icelandic committee expanded its sisterhood campaign, a monthly donation initiative that also raises awareness of gender equality and UN-Women, while the Finnish committee launched a similar programme. Overall, national committees contributed \$823,000 in 2011, while also advocating increased Government contributions.

67. Several national committees, including those in Australia, Iceland, Japan, Singapore and the United Kingdom, also developed partnerships with private-sector companies, while those in Australia, Japan and Switzerland promoted the Women's Empowerment Principles, resulting in several companies becoming signatories thereto.

68. An online registry, established in response to General Assembly resolution 64/289 to ensure that reporting on funding is transparent and that information is easily accessible to Member States, continues to provide information on contributions pledged and received.²

VI. Summary and conclusions

69. The information provided herein has demonstrated that General Assembly resolution 64/289 continues to provide a strong and solid basis for the Entity to discharge its mandated functions. UN-Women has proceeded smoothly in further consolidating its leadership, and coordination and coherence throughout the United Nations system have become more effective. Its institutional capacity and organizational efficiency and effectiveness as a composite entity are increasingly being enhanced. At the same time, areas where further work is necessary have also emerged more clearly.

70. Of highest concern is the fact that the resource mobilization targets for 2011 were not fully met. Achieving the reduced goal of \$700 million for the biennium requires significantly increased donor support. If UN-Women is to fully discharge its mandate in the years to come, donor support to achieve a minimum funding level that is commensurate with the ambitions of the mandate accorded to it by the General Assembly will be essential.

71. UN-Women is increasingly linking its normative support function with its operational experience and expertise. Priority will be accorded to efforts to establish a robust system for ensuring that UN-Women work on gender equality at the country level better and more systematically responds to the outcomes of global intergovernmental processes.

72. UN-Women will make greater efforts to more clearly present its role vis-à-vis the United Nations system in coordination and inter-agency settings. While progress in strengthening system-wide cooperation has been noticeable, greater investment and capacity are needed to ensure that the Entity can fully take on its leadership role in those settings and provide the specific technical support required by United Nations partners in all sectors, both at headquarters and in the field. Particular efforts are needed to build the capacity and increase the experience of UN-Women field presences to engage effectively in inter-agency mechanisms and cooperation.

73. Although UN-Women has strengthened its human resources, variations in capacity throughout the Entity remain a significant challenge. Overly centralized decision-making continues to cause delays and transaction costs, along with insufficient communication. These are priorities for the 2012 regional architecture process and for organizational effectiveness efforts more broadly.

² See www.unwomen.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/06/Pledges_May_31_2012.pdf.

74. As mandated by the General Assembly, a comprehensive report on the implementation of the relevant part of resolution 64/289 will be submitted to the Assembly at its sixty-eighth session.

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**Review and implementation of the Concluding Document of
the Twelfth Special Session of the General Assembly****United Nations Disarmament Information Programme****Report of the Secretary-General***Summary*

The present report provides an overview of the activities of the United Nations Disarmament Information Programme carried out by the Office for Disarmament Affairs in the priority areas of weapons of mass destruction and conventional weapons, in particular small arms and light weapons. The Programme will continue to publish print and electronic versions of the two-part *United Nations Disarmament Yearbook*, available on its website. The disarmament website (www.un.org/disarmament) has grown exponentially in content and is being used more and more by Member States, conference participants, non-governmental organizations and the general public alike to access daily updates of documents and statements, including video messages. Websites for specific meetings and conferences are being further developed. The Office will continue to facilitate the participation of civil society organizations in disarmament-related meetings and conferences and collaborate closely with coalitions of non-governmental organizations that spearhead such participation. The present report also gives details of the many contributions of the Department of Public Information to the dissemination of information on disarmament.

* A/67/150.



I. Introduction

1. In its resolution 65/81, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to submit to the Assembly at its sixty-seventh session a report covering both the implementation of the activities of the United Nations Disarmament Information Programme by the United Nations system during the previous two years and the activities of the Programme contemplated for the following two years. The Programme is administered by the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs, in close collaboration with the Department of Public Information of the Secretariat, in particular on information campaigns focused on major disarmament-related events and conferences.
2. The objectives of the Disarmament Information Programme reflect the overall orientation of the Office for Disarmament Affairs, guided by the priorities of Member States as enunciated in the resolutions and decisions of the General Assembly.
3. In accordance with the report of the Secretary-General (A/65/159), the High Representative for Disarmament Affairs has continued her advocacy of disarmament and non-proliferation issues with Member States and civil society and continued to increase her interaction with the media, think-tank organizations, academia and civil society organizations that play a vital role in building and activating public opinion in respect of disarmament and non-proliferation efforts.
4. In the area of weapons of mass destruction and their delivery systems, especially nuclear weapons, priority was accorded to the first session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2015 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (Vienna, 30 April-11 May 2012), the seventh Conference on Facilitating the Entry into Force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (New York, 23 September 2011), convened pursuant to article XIV of the Treaty, and the Seventh Review Conference of the States Parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction (the Biological Weapons Convention) (Geneva, 5-22 December 2011), entailing an increased demand for information by the diplomatic community, other international and civil society organizations, the media and the general public.
5. In the field of conventional weapons, priority was accorded to the sessions of the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on the Arms Trade Treaty held in New York from 2 to 27 July 2012. Again, the Office for Disarmament Affairs was required to mobilize resources to meet the demand for information from various sectors.
6. The importance of the website of the Office for Disarmament Affairs continues to grow, as evidenced by significantly increased traffic and time spent by visitors on the site. Dedicated websites were designed for major disarmament-related conferences, including the third session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2010 Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference, the Review Conference itself, the first session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2015 Review Conference, and the sessions of the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on the Arms Trade Treaty and the Conference itself. Additionally, outreach and disarmament education efforts were supported by creating websites for the "Poetry for peace" and "Art for peace" contests, as well as improving the existing

disarmament education website by enhancing the disarmament video library and including all six official languages of the United Nations. Two important research tools, the United Nations Register of Conventional Arms and the database on the status and texts of disarmament-related treaties, have both been updated to support modernized web interfaces.

7. In paragraph 2 of its resolution 65/77, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to prepare a report reviewing the results of the implementation of the recommendations of the United Nations study on disarmament and non-proliferation education (A/57/124) and possible new opportunities for promoting disarmament and non-proliferation education, and to submit it to the Assembly at its sixty-seventh session (A/67/138). That report should be read in conjunction with the present one.

8. In a series of resolutions adopted at its sixty-fifth and sixty-sixth sessions, the General Assembly reaffirmed the usefulness of the Office's three regional centres for peace and disarmament — in Africa, Asia and the Pacific, and Latin America and the Caribbean — in carrying out dissemination and educational programmes. Separate reports to the General Assembly on the three regional centres¹ provide detailed information about their activities.

9. The United Nations disarmament fellowship, training and advisory services programme continues to be the Office's largest annual training programme. A separate report on its activities has been submitted to the Assembly at its sixty-seventh session (A/67/160).

10. In accordance with the standing request of the General Assembly asking the Director of the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research to report to the Assembly on the activities of the Institute on a yearly basis, accounts of the information and education activities of the Institute for the past two years are contained in separate reports transmitted by the Secretary-General for consideration by the Assembly (A/66/123 and A/67/169).

11. Funding for the Disarmament Information Programme continues to be derived from the regular budget and from extrabudgetary resources, in particular from the Voluntary Trust Fund for the Programme. The status of the Fund as at 31 December 2011 is contained in the annex to the present report. The Trust Fund continued to benefit from the generosity of Member States and private donors. The Office for Disarmament Affairs is grateful for the donations and support it has received from States and private donors, as listed in the annex to the present report.

¹ Reports of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean (A/66/140), the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific (A/66/113), and the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa (A/66/159) were submitted to the Assembly at its sixty-sixth session. The three reports of the Secretary-General on the respective regional centres have been submitted to the Assembly at its sixty-seventh session (A/67/132, A/67/112 and A/67/117).

II. Information resources

A. Publication programme

12. The *United Nations Disarmament Yearbook* remains the flagship publication of the Office for Disarmament Affairs. The English version of the *Yearbook* is issued in a print run of more than 3,000 copies (a reduction from the print run of over 4,000 in 2010, in line with the change plan endorsed by the Secretary-General and the "Greening the United Nations" initiative) and distributed worldwide to United Nations libraries, as well as to its depository library system, United Nations information centres, all permanent missions in New York and Geneva (in multiple copies), the offices of the regional commissions and parliamentary libraries. In addition, the United Nations bookshops sell several hundred copies of each edition to subscribers and non-subscribers. An additional copy is distributed to each delegation participating in the work of the First Committee of the General Assembly and the Conference on Disarmament. Furthermore, the *Yearbook* is distributed to approximately 1,300 research institutes, organizations and individuals, mainly in the developing world. The *Yearbook* is also produced in electronic format easily accessible on the Office's website. The *e-Yearbook* is produced in both HTML and PDF formats and features full-text search, index search and navigation mechanisms. Electronic versions of the *Yearbook* have been available since 2002.

13. The Occasional Papers series was developed to give wider dissemination to the expert inputs from panels and seminars sponsored by the Office for Disarmament Affairs and is disseminated free of charge and posted on the Office's website. The following have been issued in the period under review:

- Occasional Paper No. 20, November 2010, *Promoting Further Openness and Transparency in Military Matters: An Assessment of the United Nations Standardized Instrument for Reporting Military Expenditures*,² is a publication prepared jointly by the Office for Disarmament Affairs and the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute for the Group of Governmental Experts which in 2011 reviewed the operation of the United Nations Standardized Instrument and its further development.
- Occasional Paper No. 21, December 2011, *Study on the Development of a Framework for Improving End-Use and End-User Control Systems*,³ was commissioned by the Office and funded by the Government of Sweden.

14. During the reporting period, the Office for Disarmament Affairs continued the production of its quarterly electronic publication "Disarmament Update", which is aimed at interested members of the public and highlights recent events and activities of the Office and other disarmament forums, linking the reader to fuller material and documents already available on the website of the Office and other related websites.

15. In October 2010, the Office for Disarmament Affairs published *Civil Society and Disarmament*⁴ in collaboration with the NGO Committee on Disarmament, Peace and Security. This publication contains the statements by representatives of civil society organizations made on 7 May 2010 during the non-governmental

² United Nations publication, Sales No. E.10.IX.5.

³ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.12.IX.5.

⁴ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.10.IX.6.

organization (NGO) segment of the 2010 Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference.

16. In January 2011, the Office for Disarmament Affairs published a booklet entitled "Delegitimizing Nuclear Weapons" as part of the series of critical disarmament issues that have been produced in cooperation with the NGO Committee on Disarmament, Peace and Security. This publication is based on a panel discussion held on 6 December 2010 and contains extensive excerpts from transcripts of meetings held at the United Nations within the framework of the mandate of the United Nations Disarmament Information Programme. An electronic version of the booklet is also available online.

17. The Office for Disarmament Affairs continued to publish its study series, a non-sales publication produced in small quantities, which highlights General Assembly studies undertaken by groups of governmental experts. In December 2011, study series No. 33, entitled *Developments in the Field of Information and Telecommunications in the Context of International Security*, was published, containing the report of the Group of Governmental Experts established in 2009 pursuant to Assembly resolution 60/45, as well as background material. The study is available in print in English as well as electronically in all the official languages.

18. In January 2012, the Office for Disarmament Affairs published a new edition of *Disarmament: A Basic Guide* in collaboration with the NGO Committee on Disarmament, Peace and Security. An earlier edition of the booklet was published in September 2009. The Guide aims to inform, educate and generate public support for and understanding of the importance of multilateral action in the field of arms limitation and disarmament. While intended for the general reader, it is also useful for the disarmament educator or trainer. The booklet is available in English and it is being published in the other five official languages. The Office has been seeking partners to translate the Guide into as many languages as possible and to date has a commitment from the University of Tokyo to produce a version in Japanese. Other offers to translate the booklet in languages other than the official languages are welcome.

19. While printed materials are still an important medium of communication, as access to the Internet and electronic media increases across the globe the Office for Disarmament Affairs is making all of its publications available in electronic and downloadable formats. A new development is the availability of some of the Office's publications as e-books which can be purchased from a number of commercial retailers and downloaded to an e-reader portable device. To date, *The United Nations Disarmament Yearbook* for 2009 and *Disarmament: A Basic Guide* have been made available in this format. The Office will continue to make more of its publications available in this manner.

B. Website

20. The Office for Disarmament Affairs continues to maintain and improve both the substantive content and technical delivery of its website with the goal of reaching a broader audience that includes both the general public and specialists in the fields of disarmament and non-proliferation.

21. The overall design of the website remains oriented towards specific issues that represent the Office's priorities. Its front page is regularly updated with recent news of interest to the disarmament community and with educational features that explain disarmament issues in layperson's terms to the general public. Links are provided to pages archiving disarmament-related United Nations press releases; statements by the Secretary-General and other senior United Nations officials, including the High Representative for Disarmament Affairs; publications, information on current and upcoming events in the field of disarmament and relevant background documentation. The site's substantive pages give background information on the topic being explored and store a wealth of information on recent and older major disarmament-related conferences. Documentation relating to these conferences that exists in all the official languages is posted on the website. A new feature on the home page is the "Spotlight", which gives users of the website up-to-date information about events, conferences, speeches and other activities. It is updated at least weekly.

22. The Office for Disarmament Affairs continuously monitors the performance of its website. Statistics on the number of page views and visitors, traffic patterns and search query terms are recorded in real time. Regular monitoring provides data on the information being sought by the visitors to and users of the site.

23. The number of visits to the site has more than doubled since the previous report, averaging more than 30,000 visits per month. Page views have reflected a similar increase, ranging from 60,000 to 80,000 per month, while the average time individual users spent on the website has not significantly changed in that period; users are spending slightly less than three minutes per visit actively engaged with content on the site. The top users of the website, measured by time spent, are Government agencies (mainly ministries for foreign affairs), educational institutions and non-governmental organizations. In addition to the front page, the two most visited sections of the site are the pages reflecting efforts to establish an Arms Trade Treaty and those related to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty.

24. A major objective of the Office for Disarmament Affairs is to have the home page content of its website and all second-tier pages available in all the official languages, a major challenge given the lack of financial resources. Only when documentation exists in all the official languages is the Office able to post it quickly and easily. In this context, it is noteworthy that the disarmament education website is available in all six official languages.

C. Exhibitions

25. Exhibitions play an important role in promoting advocacy and providing information on a conference or other topics through the promotion of governmental and non-governmental positions. The inauguration of the new exhibit "Cities are not targets" at the permanent disarmament exhibit at Headquarters took place on 24 March 2011. The new exhibit is an art installation comprising two columns of paper bearing 1,024,820 signatures to a petition calling for cities not to be targeted and for the abolition of nuclear weapons. The signatures were collected from all over the world by Mayors for Peace between 12 February 2007 and 26 April 2010. This is the first exhibit that emphasizes the importance of the United Nations partnership with a global non-governmental organization. The exhibit is accessible

to all visitors to Headquarters, who can sign the petition and thereby support the abolition of nuclear weapons.

26. A new disarmament exhibition entitled "Toward a world free of nuclear weapons" opened on 11 November 2011 at the Palais des Nations in Geneva. The project is the result of a collaborative effort involving the Government of Japan, the Office for Disarmament Affairs, the United Nations Office at Geneva and the Atomic Bomb Museums of Nagasaki and Hiroshima. The exhibition is composed of panels explaining the history of nuclear weapons and what is being done to make a nuclear-weapon-free world a reality; artefacts from Urakami Catholic Cathedral in Nagasaki, which was near the epicentre of the atomic bomb explosion; and a scale model of the statue "Good Defeats Evil" by Georgian-Russian artist Zurab Tsereteli. The remarks made at the opening ceremony and photographs of the exhibit are available on the website of the Office for Disarmament Affairs.

27. Another new exhibit, "Fashioning future history", commemorating the eightieth anniversary of the World Disarmament Conference, was opened on 14 February 2012 at the League of Nations Museum at the Palais des Nations in Geneva. The exhibit highlights the work done by the World Disarmament Conference to lay the groundwork for the disarmament efforts of the international community following the Second World War and disarmament achievements at both multilateral and bilateral levels, and that the lessons of the World Conference still apply today to the Conference on Disarmament. The opening remarks of the Director-General and photographs of the exhibit and its panels are available on the website of the Office for Disarmament Affairs.

D. Events

28. In September 2011, a month-long social media "Poetry for peace" contest took place. Participants were invited to hear the living testimonies of atomic bomb survivors, called *hibakusha*, and to respond to their stories in verse. Participating individuals were also encouraged to "like" the poems that most touched them. Some of the poems echoed the pain of the victims while others called for nuclear disarmament, and almost all made a strong plea for peace. Three winners were selected from among the 741 poems submitted and announced on 25 October 2011 at a ceremony in New York. A number of New York City schoolchildren listened to and engaged with the two *hibakusha*, who were also appointed by the Government of Japan as special communicators for a world without nuclear weapons. The "Poetry for peace" contest had 48,675 visits from 34,375 different visitors.

29. From 1 February to 30 April 2012, the Office for Disarmament Affairs ran an "Art for peace" contest for children and teenagers who were invited to view different age-appropriate videos online about the dangers of nuclear weapons and to express themselves, through their artwork, on the theme "Imagine a world free of nuclear weapons" by uploading the artwork to a dedicated website (www.unartforpeace.org/). The contest received 6,623 entries from 92 countries. A panel of 140 judges from 40 countries selected four winners from each of the three age groups (ages 5-8, 9-12 and 13-17). The winners in the 13 to 17 age group received cash prizes. To encourage wider participation and to support the aims of the contest, South-South News matched the prize money for those winners. Each of the artists in the younger categories received art supplies donated by a founding

partner of the contest, the Harmony for Peace Foundation. In addition to the large number of entries received in just five months in 2012, the specially designed website received 100,000 separate visitors from 187 countries, with over 1,250,000 page views.

III. Information activities

A. Conferences, panel discussions and other information activities

30. With support from the Government of Japan, the Office for Disarmament Affairs, through its Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific, organized the twenty-second United Nations Conference on Disarmament Issues in Saitama, Japan, from 25 to 27 August 2010. The Conference, with the overall theme of "A nuclear-weapon-free world: making steady progress from vision to action", assessed the outcome of the 2010 Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference and addressed ways to make progress in achieving nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation and promoting the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. The Conference also discussed the role of civil society and peace and disarmament education in advancing disarmament, arms control and non-proliferation. Approximately 85 participants from Government, academia, think tanks, international and non-governmental organizations and the media attended the Conference. The Conference was open to the public in order to raise awareness of and support for disarmament and non-proliferation. The twenty-third United Nations Conference on Disarmament Issues, organized by the Office in cooperation with the Government of Japan and the City of Matsumoto, was held in Matsumoto, Japan, from 27 to 29 July 2011. The participants at the Conference, with the overall theme "Urgent and united action towards a nuclear-weapon-free world", discussed critical and relevant issues related to disarmament and security. Participants called for the implementation of the Action Plan adopted at the 2010 Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference. Against the backdrop of the accident at the Fukushima nuclear power plant in March 2011, all the discussions, and particularly the ones centred on the peaceful uses of nuclear energy and nuclear security and safety, assumed a new and pressing urgency. The role of civil society in sustaining the momentum towards peace and disarmament was also strongly emphasized.

31. With the support of the Government of the Republic of Korea, the ninth United Nations-Republic of Korea Joint Conference on Disarmament and Non-proliferation Issues took place on Jeju Island, Republic of Korea, on 2 and 3 December 2010. The Conference, with the overall theme "Nuclear renaissance and international peace and security", addressed the issue of global nuclear energy expansion, its challenges and opportunities, implications for nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation as well as ways and means of enhancing nuclear security and preventing nuclear terrorism. The tenth United Nations-Republic of Korea Joint Conference on Disarmament and Non-proliferation Issues also took place on Jeju Island, on 7 and 8 November 2011. With the overall theme "The past and the future of disarmament and non-proliferation", the Conference's participants examined both setbacks and progress in the past decade, future challenges and the expected outcomes of the 2012 Seoul Nuclear Security Summit. Some 80 representatives from Government, academic institutions, industry and civil society attended. The Secretary-General

sent a video message to the Conference in which he underscored his commitment to realizing a world free of nuclear weapons.

32. The United Nations Regional Workshop for East and South-East Asia entitled "Strengthening the capacity of the media in promoting and advocating peace and disarmament" took place in Beijing on 20 and 21 January 2011. The workshop was organized by the Office for Disarmament Affairs and supported by the Government of China and the China Arms Control and Disarmament Association. The workshop was the first of three in a project entitled "Strengthening the capacity of the media in advocating and promoting peace and disarmament in Asia and the Pacific". It was also the first United Nations meeting in recent years that focused on the role of the media in promoting disarmament. Over 50 participants, including senior media officials from 11 East and South-East Asian States as well as disarmament experts from think tanks and representatives of international organizations took part. The workshop, which provided a unique occasion for interactive discussions between media representatives and disarmament experts on various disarmament topics, proved to be most useful in increasing the media's knowledge and understanding of disarmament and non-proliferation issues and in empowering the media from the region to be involved in promoting disarmament efforts. Participants also discussed the potential role of new social media in promoting disarmament.

33. The 2010 and 2011 sessions of the First Committee of the General Assembly attracted an unusually large number of side events organized separately and jointly by permanent missions to the United Nations, NGOs, think tanks, the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research and the Office for Disarmament Affairs.

B. Briefings

34. At the request of the Public Inquiries Unit of the Department of Public Information or in response to requests received directly from individual institutions, staff members of the Office for Disarmament Affairs in New York undertook briefing engagements — some 60 per year over the reporting period, up from about 40 during the previous reporting period. These focused on education and training activities involving some 4,700 participants (compared to 2,250 during the previous reporting period), including: (a) student visitors within the framework of university programmes dealing with the United Nations; (b) United Nations Association members from various countries; (c) foreign ministry trainees; (d) students preparing for the model United Nations exercises; and (e) visiting members of NGOs.

35. Staff members also participated in numerous panels and events on arms control, disarmament and security issues organized by research or university-related institutes or think tanks.

36. The High Representative for Disarmament Affairs and staff participated in interviews with television, radio and print outlets. Attention was also given to new media such as Internet broadcasting and video messages, both for specific meetings and for the Office's website.

C. Activities of the Secretary-General's Messenger of Peace on disarmament

37. The Department of Public Information is the lead office for supporting the activities of the Messengers of Peace and acts in cooperation with the substantive office, in this case the Office for Disarmament Affairs. During the period under review, Michael Douglas made a number of contributions to support disarmament efforts.

38. Mr. Douglas joined the Secretary-General and a number of other United Nations Messengers of Peace and Goodwill Ambassadors in recording video messages of solidarity with the people of Japan in the wake of the earthquake and tsunami in March 2011. The messages were played to affected populations via national Japanese broadcast partners, online partners, United Nations information centres and the United Nations social media channels.

39. On 24 March 2011, Mr. Douglas spoke at the inauguration of the "Cities are not targets" exhibition in the General Assembly Hall presenting a petition signed by more than 1 million people calling for the abolition of nuclear weapons. The Secretary-General, the High Representative for Disarmament Affairs and three atomic bomb survivors also took part in the event (see para. 25 above).

40. In September 2011, Mr. Douglas taped two public service announcements at Headquarters in support of the work of the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization; one for its "Close the door" campaign to stop nuclear testing and the other one to help bring the treaty into force.

41. In November 2011, Mr. Douglas visited Washington, D.C., for a number of meetings to promote nuclear disarmament. He held meetings with senior members of the United States Congress, as well as with both White House and State Department officials.

42. On 12 December 2011, Mr. Douglas taped a public service announcement at Headquarters for the 2012 "Art for peace" contest launched in February 2012 with the theme "Imagine a world free of nuclear weapons" (see para. 29 above).

43. Mr. Douglas also contributed the foreword to the third edition of *Disarmament: A Basic Guide* (2012), a publication undertaken by the Office in collaboration with the NGO Committee on Disarmament, Peace and Security (see para. 18 above).

IV. Cooperation with civil society, especially non-governmental organizations

44. For the purpose of coordinating participation in major conferences, the Office for Disarmament Affairs continues to maintain close contact with two major NGO coalitions, Reaching Critical Will in the nuclear field and the International Action Network on Small Arms (IANSA) in connection with small arms and light weapons. A total of 1,155 representatives from 118 NGOs participated in the 2010 Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference in May 2010. In the area of small arms, 170 representatives from about 35 NGOs participated in the fourth biennial meeting of States to consider the implementation of the Programme of Action to

Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects held in June 2010. A new system of online advance registration for NCOs for this type of meeting is now available and has eased the burden on the Office, the NGO community and the Department of Safety and Security.

V. Activities of the Department of Public Information

45. The Department of Public Information continued to help raise public awareness and understanding of the objectives and the work of the United Nations in the area of disarmament, arms control and related fields, including by promoting the Organization's conferences, meetings, events and observances.

A. Internet, press coverage, television and radio

46. During the reporting period, the Department of Public Information continued to focus on disarmament as one of its priority issues in its radio, television, print, online and photo outlets.

47. United Nations Television provided live coverage of the high-level meeting on revitalizing the work of the Conference on Disarmament and taking forward multilateral disarmament negotiations held in New York on 24 September 2010 and of the follow-up meeting of the General Assembly held on 27 July 2011, on the theme of "Disarmament and world security: challenges for the international community and the role of the United Nations". Related stories were prepared and distributed to global broadcasters through UNifeed, which enables news providers to cover important global issues by offering timely broadcast-quality video from throughout the United Nations system. UNTV also covered the inauguration of the exhibition of civil society petitions calling for the abolition of nuclear weapons attended by the Secretary-General and Messenger of Peace Michael Douglas.

48. The Department's Audiovisual Library has processed and published more than 700 photos relating to disarmament since April 2011, more than 500 of which were new images while some 170 were from the Organization's historical archives. The United Nations Photo Library also regularly updated a photo slideshow entitled "Disarmament and the UN", which had a large international following on the social media site Flickr.

49. United Nations Photo coverage spanned the full range of meetings and events at Headquarters, including throughout Disarmament Week and during the Conference on Disarmament. It also covered disarmament activities in the field in Côte d'Ivoire and in Darfur, the Sudan.

50. United Nations Radio produced a large number of programmes on nuclear disarmament and conventional weapons in the six official languages, as well as in Portuguese and Kiswahili, for global radio partners and the general public. Special coverage was given to the Conference on Disarmament and to the Secretary-General's message announcing a five-point proposal to free the world of nuclear weapons and to make nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation one of his top priorities. In an exclusive interview with United Nations Radio, the High Representative for Disarmament Affairs talked about the challenges that had been faced by the Conference over the previous 15 years. United Nations Radio also

covered several events commemorating the International Day against Nuclear Tests. It reported on the forty-fifth anniversary of the Treaty of Tlatelolco, which established a nuclear-weapon-free zone in Latin America and the Caribbean, and on the forum held by the International Atomic Energy Agency in Vienna in November 2011 to discuss similar issues with respect to the establishment of a zone free of all weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East. United Nations Radio produced a feature on the Semipalatinsk nuclear test site in Kazakhstan and its efforts to recover from the destruction caused by tests conducted decades ago. It also produced programmes on former soldiers of the armed forces of the Sudan and rebel groups in Darfur who handed in their weapons as part of a United Nations programme to reintegrate them into civilian life.

51. Throughout the reporting period, the United Nations News Centre produced numerous articles on disarmament in the six official languages. Some 200 news stories were produced in English and French alone on disarmament issues ranging from national efforts and post-conflict disarmament programmes to major international events such as the Seoul Nuclear Security Summit and the announcement of the facilitator and the host Government for the conference on the establishment of a Middle East zone free of nuclear weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction, to be convened in 2012. The work of the United Nations and statements by the Secretary-General and the President of the General Assembly were elaborated upon in those news reports. A News Centre multimedia feature drew attention to the scourge of landmines by spotlighting portraits of landmine survivors taken by a photographer with the United Nations Mine Action Service in Afghanistan. News Centre stories were read by viewers around the world and redisseminated online by news aggregators and civil society organizations. They were also reprinted on web pages across the United Nations system, sent via e-mail to News Centre subscribers and distributed via social media.

52. The Department also provided close coverage of open intergovernmental meetings, press conferences and major statements through its meetings coverage press releases. During the reporting period, the Meetings Coverage Section issued more than 350 press releases relating to disarmament in English and French, including more than 220 detailed, real-time summaries of intergovernmental meetings and some 80 relevant statements by the Secretary-General and the Deputy Secretary-General.

53. The Department's information and news products related to disarmament were further disseminated in the six official languages through social media, including Twitter, Facebook, Flickr and Weibo.

54. The Department widely promoted and provided extensive coverage of the United Nations Conference on the Arms Trade Treaty (2-27 July 2012) and will do the same for the second United Nations Conference to Review Progress Made in the Implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects (27 August-7 September 2012).

B. Public affairs, civil society and non-governmental organizations

55. During the reporting period, the Department of Public Information continued its regular briefing programme for the representatives of the non-governmental organizations associated with the Department. A screening of the film *The Forgotten Bomb* was held on 2 February 2012. The film was produced by two American film-makers and focused on the history of nuclear weapons and their continuing impact on the world.

56. The Department's Visitors Services Section disseminated information on disarmament and non-proliferation in a wide range of ways. The topics feature prominently on the tour route, with one entire corridor dedicated to both conventional weapons and weapons of mass destruction. Tour guides regularly received specialized training, including regular briefings by United Nations experts and updates on military expenditures, the ratification status of relevant treaties and the work of the relevant bodies and offices involved in disarmament and non-proliferation. Approximately 250,000 visitors annually participated in guided tours in the period covered by the report. The topic of disarmament will also feature in a new tour being developed specifically for children aged 5-13.

57. The tour route includes visual displays, videos and artefacts on the topic, such as examples of landmines, the statue of St. Agnes from Nagasaki, the "escopetarra", a guitar made from a modified gun, from Colombia and a video on the work of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization.

58. During the period July 2010 to July 2012, the Department's Public Inquiries Unit received a total of 86 queries on the subject of disarmament. Additionally, a fact sheet was issued in March 2012, "Are You Ready to Roll? Lend Your Leg — Say 'No More Landmines'", to mark the International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action (4 April). This campaign was also highlighted both on the Visitors Services website and on its Facebook page.

59. To mark the International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action, every year the Exhibits Unit arranges for a display on landmines in the public lobby of the General Assembly, which has approximately 1 million visitors annually. In 2011, a multimedia exhibition entitled "DeterMined" was launched, featuring the work of Venezuelan photographer Kike Arnal and Slovenian photographer Arne Hodalič. Mr. Arnal's work explored the impact of cluster munitions on the lives of individuals in Lebanon, while Mr. Hodalič's photos documented the work of the United Nations Mine Action Team in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

60. The International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action in 2012 was marked with a multimedia exhibition entitled "UN Common Cause" featuring works by New York-based portrait photographer Marco Grob, who travelled to Afghanistan and Cambodia to photograph mine victims for the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations Mine Action Team, as well as photographs by Italian photojournalist Giovanni Diffidenti, who spent some time documenting the work of the joint mine action team in Libya. The exhibit also highlighted the "Lend Your Leg" campaign, asking everyone to roll up their pant leg in a symbolic gesture of solidarity with landmine survivors across the globe who have lost limbs to this deadly device.

C. Printed materials

61. The issues of disarmament and arms control continued to be covered extensively in publications of the Department of Public Information such as *The Yearbook of the United Nations* and *Basic Facts about the United Nations*. They also featured prominently in the magazine of the United Nations, *UN Chronicle*. Following a double issue on disarmament published in 2009, *UN Chronicle* included an article on the Conference on Disarmament from the youth perspective in issue 4, 2010 and an article on the role and efforts of the United Nations in combating the proliferation of small arms and light weapons in issue 4, 2011. In the first issue of 2012, an article on the link between disarmament and sustainable development looks at this issue as the world headed towards the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development which was held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 20 to 22 June 2012.

62. In the period July 2010 to July 2012, United Nations Publications (Sales and Marketing Section) published, promoted, distributed and sold:

- *Report on the Conference on Disarmament: 2010 Session* (A/65/27) in print (October 2010)
- *The United Nations Disarmament Yearbook, 2010*, Parts I⁵ and II,⁶ in print and PDF (April 2011 and December 2011)
- *Report of the Disarmament Commission for 2011* (A/66/42) in print (June 2011)
- *Civil Society and Disarmament 2010: Non-Governmental Organizations' Presentations at the 2010 Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference*⁷ in PDF (December 2011)
- *Disarmament: A Basic Guide* in print and electronic form for Kindle, iBookstore, Nook, Sony eBook reader and other mobile devices (January 2012)
- *The United Nations Disarmament Yearbook, 2011*, Part I,⁸ in print and PDF (April 2012).

D. International Day against Nuclear Tests

63. On 29 August 2010, the Department of Public Information, in partnership with the Office for Disarmament Affairs, commemorated the first International Day against Nuclear Tests, as mandated by the General Assembly in its resolution 64/35. The International Day, which coincided with the twentieth anniversary of the closure of the Semipalatinsk nuclear weapons test site in Kazakhstan, was observed widely at Headquarters and at various United Nations information centres, services and offices.

⁵ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.11.IX.1.

⁶ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.11.IX.2.

⁷ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.10.IX.6.

⁸ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.12.IX.1.

64. At Headquarters, the Department of Public Information branued the International Day against Nuclear Weapons with a logo that was used, inter alia, for the dedicated website and on a banner displayed on the gate at the Visitors' Entrance; created and updated a promotional flyer for a high-level workshop and a meeting commemorating the International Day; and reached out to in-house audiences through the Journal of the United Nations and iSeek.

65. For global outreach, the Department developed, and updates yearly, a dedicated website in the six official languages about the nuclear disarmament process that encompasses relevant information on topics such as non-proliferation; input from the Preparatory Committee for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization, United Nations bodies and civil society; timely messages and articles; related events; multimedia; and pertinent documents, speeches and statements.

66. In observing the International Day against Nuclear Weapons, the Department of Public Information and the Office for Disarmament Affairs have relied on support from permanent missions to the United Nations, in particular the Permanent Mission of Kazakhstan.

E. United Nations information centres, services and offices

67. The Department's network of 63 United Nations information centres, services and offices continued to carry out disarmament public information activities through media outreach, including placement of op-ed pieces on nuclear disarmament, small arms and landmines; the production and dissemination of information materials in local languages; and seminars, lectures, conferences and exhibitions.

68. From July 2010 through April 2012, the United Nations Information Service in Geneva issued 103 press releases in English and 82 in French, including on the Biological Weapons Convention, the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects and the United Nations disarmament fellowship programme.

69. In observance of the first International Day against Nuclear Tests in August 2010, the United Nations Office in Almaty provided information on and support to an international conference marking the closure of the Semipalatinsk nuclear facility. Information centres globally translated and disseminated the Secretary-General's message into local languages, including Azerbaijani, German, Hungarian, Persian, Slovak, Slovene and Turkish, and it appeared in numerous publications. The Information Centre in Tehran issued it as a press release, while the Regional Centre in Brussels translated and posted it on Nordic websites.

70. In August 2011, the Secretary-General's message on the Day was translated into Turkish, Persian and Polish and disseminated to the media and posted on Facebook and Twitter. The Director of the Information Centre in Moscow delivered a keynote address on the multilateral nuclear disarmament agenda at a round table.

71. To commemorate the sixty-fifth anniversary of the Hiroshima and Nagasaki atomic bombings, in July 2010 the Information Service in Vienna co-conducted an event to remember the victims and to advocate for non-proliferation and disarmament. The Office in Yerevan organized an origami exhibition within the

framework of the Armenian-Japanese "Peace Lantern" project. In December, the Director of the Information Centre in Manama was interviewed by *Al Bilad* on his statement at the Bahrain Universities Model United Nations conference on the role of the United Nations in non-proliferation.

72. In April 2011, the Department promoted the Secretary-General's message on Remembrance Day for All Victims of Chemical Warfare through the Information Centres in Asuncion, Bahrain, Brussels, New Delhi, Port of Spain, Tehran and Warsaw, where it was translated and disseminated to the media, NGOs, students and libraries. For further outreach, the Regional Centre in Brussels worked with desks in Ireland and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

73. Throughout March, April and May 2011, United Nations information centres translated and disseminated the Secretary-General's message for the International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance to the media, students and civil society in Azerbaijan, Bhutan, Burundi, India, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, Lebanon, Paraguay, Sri Lanka, Turkey, Ukraine and the United Kingdom. Additionally, the Office in Almaty organized an event and video screenings, while its equivalent in Asmara partnered with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), UNDP and the Ministry of Labour and Human Welfare on an event that included representatives of the Government, United Nations agencies and diplomatic missions.

74. In July 2010, the Information Centre in Ouagadougou co-organized with the Ministry of Defence of Burkina Faso a seminar for Government officials, the armed forces, arms manufacturers, civil society, gun dealers and the media on the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects.

75. Other initiatives included the media relations support which the Information Centre in Port of Spain provided to visiting officials of the Office for Disarmament Affairs for the training and ammunition destruction programme as well as for the workshop on firearms destruction and stockpile management organized by the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, which were held in Trinidad and Tobago in 2011. An op-ed by the Director of the Information Centre in Buenos Aires was published in August 2011 in national dailies and, also in August 2011, a "One UN Stand" event was organized by the Information Centre in Rio de Janeiro, in close cooperation with the Office for Disarmament Affairs, where United Nations publications were distributed to approximately 100 Latin American participants.

76. Beginning in 2011, throughout the three annual sessions of the Conference on Disarmament, the Information Service in Geneva posted on Facebook and Twitter summaries of meetings, photographs of plenary sessions and high-level speakers and links to press releases and United Nations websites.

77. To combat the plague of illicit small arms, in September 2011, the Information Centre in New Delhi commenced a "Peace to non-violence" campaign to coincide with a press conference launching the India Armed Violence Assessment Study. The Director of the Centre, the country director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the Ambassador of Switzerland to India and senior members of the Small Arms Survey in Geneva hosted a question and answer session that was covered by the media.

78. The Information Service in Vienna was active in observing the International Day against Nuclear Tests and supporting activities related to the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization. It also provided information support at the first session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2015 Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference, held in Vienna from 30 April through 11 May 2012.

79. In February 2012, the Department provided communications support during the inauguration of the new office of the United Nations Office on Disarmament Affairs in Vienna with press coverage, promotional activities and media accreditation; the fifteenth anniversary of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization was also marked at this event.

F. Internal communication

80. From July 2010 to June 2012, the United Nations intranet iSeek published 28 articles concerning disarmament issues in English and French.

VI. Conclusions

81. During the period under review, the United Nations Disarmament Information Programme continued to focus its activities on information in the field of weapons of mass destruction, especially nuclear weapons, and on the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons and the arms trade.

82. Responding to the higher levels of computer literacy and technological capability among its constituents around the globe, the Disarmament Information Programme is orienting its publications towards electronic formats. The two-part *United Nations Disarmament Yearbook*, the *Occasional Papers* series and "Disarmament Update" and other publications are available on the website of the Office for Disarmament Affairs. E-books are another area where new technologies are being explored to reach new constituencies with mobile information.

83. The website of the Office for Disarmament Affairs has expanded exponentially in content and specialized websites have been developed for major conferences, which serve as working tools for participants and vectors of public information.

84. The Department of Public Information has highlighted disarmament and arms control issues of topical interest, especially nuclear weapons and small arms and light weapons, in print, on the Internet and in film, television and radio, using its large network of information centres around the world and its outreach capacity. Its use of the celebrity appeal of the Messenger of Peace in respect of arms control issues continues to be effective.

85. The Office for Disarmament Affairs is grateful for the support it has received from Member States for the Voluntary Trust Fund for the United Nations Disarmament Information Programme and appeals for continued support for its work.

Annex

**Status of the Voluntary Trust Fund for the United Nations
Disarmament Information Programme as at
31 December 2011**

	<i>(United States dollars)</i>
I. Fund balance as at 1 January 2010	340 913
II. Income, 1 January 2010-31 December 2011	
Voluntary contributions	103 000
Interest income	14 254
Miscellaneous income	2 759
Subtotal	120 013
III. Expenditure	
1 January 2010-31 December 2011	40 608
Programme support costs (United Nations)	5 279
Subtotal	45 887
IV. Fund balance as at 31 December 2011	415 039

Source: This information is based on the statement of income and expenditure for the biennium 2010-2011 ending 31 December 2011. Contributions totalling \$102,000 were received during the year 2010 from Panama (\$1,000), Thailand (\$1,000) and a private donor (\$100,000). In 2011, contributions totalling \$1,000 were received from Thailand.

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Sixty-seventh session

Item 97 of the provisional agenda*

**Review of the implementation of the recommendations
and decisions adopted by the General Assembly at its
tenth special session****Work of the Advisory Board on Disarmament Matters****Report of the Secretary-General***Summary*

The Advisory Board on Disarmament Matters held its fifty-seventh session in New York from 22 to 24 February 2012 and its fifty-eighth session in Geneva from 4 to 6 July 2012. The Board focused its deliberations during its sessions on the following substantive items on its agenda: (a) ways to improve the work of the Advisory Board on Disarmament Matters; (b) conventional arms regulation: the future United Nations architecture; and (c) follow-up discussions on the issue of the revitalization of the Conference on Disarmament.

The first item was discussed at the Board's fifty-seventh session only as a result of views expressed by many members at its fifty-sixth session in Geneva in July 2011 that it would be timely for the Board to examine ways to improve its method of work. The Board had an in-depth exchange of views on the second item during both 2012 sessions. The Board recommended that the Secretary-General stress the need for a consistent and non-redundant architecture for conventional arms on the basis of the centrality of such United Nations tools as the Register of Conventional Arms and of negotiations mandated, conducted or endorsed by the General Assembly. The Secretary-General could request the appropriate structure, such as the Office for Disarmament Affairs, the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR) as a possible future arms trade treaty support unit, or a technical working group, to consider and report on the following: (a) overlaps between existing instruments; (b) ways to improve communication between the instruments and Governments, as well among them; (c) ways to assist States with implementation and reporting under the existing instruments and frameworks; and (d) how the United

* A/67/150.



Nations and the regional instruments relate to each other and how they can be utilized for mutual reinforcement. The Secretary-General should also be encouraged to promote confidence-building measures in the military sphere among countries in different regions with the assistance of regional organizations, as appropriate, and should also continue efforts to promote awareness of circumstances in which there could be negative consequences of the arms trade. The Board considered the third item on its agenda, revitalization of the Conference on Disarmament, during its fifty-eighth session only. In view of the fact that the Board had considered at both its 2011 sessions the issues raised at the high-level meeting on "Revitalizing the work of the Conference on Disarmament and taking forward multilateral disarmament negotiations", held on 24 September 2010, including the possible establishment of a high-level panel of eminent persons with a special focus on the functioning of the Conference, the Secretary-General requested the Board to consider the issue again at its July session in 2012. The Board recommended that the Secretary-General continue his efforts to encourage the Conference to pursue all efforts to achieve a breakthrough in the persisting stalemate and that he could consider initiating a process of consultation with all concerned States to build consensus to commence substantive work on negotiations in respect of a fissile material cut-off treaty under a balanced programme of work. The Secretary-General might also wish to consider an appropriate dedicated modality for that purpose, including the appointment of a special envoy or coordinator to assist him in his efforts. Parallel to his consultations, the Secretary-General might wish to consider encouraging members of the Conference to establish groups of scientific experts in the Conference with a mandate to explore technical and scientific issues to support work on a future cut-off treaty. In addition, the Secretary-General should continue his efforts to raise public awareness and encourage civil society groups and non-governmental organizations to provide input on ways to break the prolonged stalemate at the Conference, and he could also encourage Member States to take steps to restore the credibility and legitimacy of the United Nations disarmament machinery by inviting them to promote the cause of disarmament in the General Assembly and other relevant United Nations bodies so that it remains on the agenda.

As the Board of Trustees for the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR), the Board adopted the Institute's 2012 programme and budget and approved, for submission to the General Assembly, the report of the Director of the Institute on its activities from August 2011 to July 2012, as well as the proposed programme of work and estimated budget for 2012 and 2013. The importance of adequate funding in order for the Institute to maintain its sustainability was stressed by members of the Board. The Board also recommended the continuing subvention from the United Nations regular budget for the biennium 2012-2013. The Board reiterated its earlier recommendation that the level of the subvention be increased to fully fund all core staff costs, which is a requisite for providing the stability needed to allow the Institute to pursue the structure and programme of work justified by its vision and mission.

I. Introduction

1. The Advisory Board on Disarmament Matters held its fifty-seventh session in New York from 22 to 24 February 2012 and its fifty-eighth session in Geneva from 4 to 6 July 2012. The present report is submitted pursuant to General Assembly resolution 38/183 O. The report of the Director of the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR), approved by the Advisory Board serving as its Board of Trustees, has been submitted in a separate document (A/67/169).
2. Hewa M. G. S. Palihakkara (Sri Lanka) chaired the two sessions of the Board in 2012.
3. The present report summarizes the Board's deliberations during the two sessions and the specific recommendations it conveyed to the Secretary-General.

II. Substantive discussions and recommendations

A. Ways to improve the work of the Advisory Board on Disarmament Matters

4. A number of members of the Board stated at the 2011 session in Geneva that it would be timely for the Board to examine ways to improve its method of work. The Secretary-General agreed with the suggestion and requested the Board to look at its working method for one session, in February 2012.
5. At its fifty-seventh session, two Board members, Carlo Trezza and Olga Pellicer presented "food-for-thought" papers on the item.
6. Following an in-depth exchange of views, the Board agreed on the importance of maintaining a suitable balance in its composition, in terms of the balance between government and non-governmental members, equitable regional representation, generational balance and gender balance. In particular, a number of Board members pointed to the absence of members from the Middle East and the underrepresentation of certain regions. Some members questioned the benefits of a full and constant presence of Board members coming from the States that are permanent members of the Security Council. The need for an eventual increase in the number of Board members as a way to achieve better geographical representation was mentioned.
7. Concerns were raised that striving for consensus should not hamper the work of the Board. Members agreed that while achieving consensus on issues could be seen positively, it should not be an absolute necessity in the way of constituting an obstacle to conveying new ideas. Some members stressed that the Board should strive to provide the Secretary-General with bold and creative recommendations and that differing views should be properly reflected. Members also expressed the importance of providing the Secretary-General with both good and practical recommendations. Extensive discussions also took place on ways to improve the modalities of reporting the work of the Board to the Secretary-General.
8. Members concurred on the usefulness of engaging in some type of intersessional dialogue among the members, using various communication tools such as the Internet, e-mail, videoconferencing or teleconferencing. Proposals were

made by several members to create subgroups or small working groups to tackle specific items during the intersessional period or even during the regular sessions of the Board, if needed. Members expressed their wish to revisit the usefulness of such an intersessional dialogue in the near future. A suggestion was also made to have the UNIDIR subcommittee become active as soon as it was composed rather than waiting for its one-day meeting prior to the Board's fifty-eighth session in Geneva.

9. A question was raised in regard to the need to update decision 5...418 of the General Assembly concerning the Board's mandate, particularly its role related to the implementation of the United Nations Disarmament Information Programme. There was agreement, however, that there was no need to revisit the issue at the present stage, nor was there a need to narrow the Board's existing mandate. In that connection, the Board received an extensive briefing on the Programme from the Chief of the Information and Outreach Branch of the Office for Disarmament Affairs. Consequently, the Board requested that it be kept regularly informed of the Programme through updates from the Office.

10. Other suggestions included a proposal to have food-for-thought papers prepared and circulated earlier if possible, as well as limiting the number of items considered by the Board to just two to allow more time for their consideration.

B. Conventional arms regulation: the future United Nations architecture

11. Over the past two decades, initiatives at the United Nations regarding conventional arms regulation have led to a number of new processes and instruments. With the development of such arms regulation instruments, it would be important to avoid any overlap and duplication. Consequently, the Board was requested to address the interrelationship among processes in the area of conventional arms regulation and formulate recommendations on ways in which Member States could work together on making the United Nations architecture on conventional arms regulation as coherent and effective as possible.

12. At the Board's fifty-seventh session, two members, Nobuyasu Abe and Togzhan Kassenova, provided food-for-thought papers. A presentation on the topic was also provided to the Board by Daniel Prins, Chief of the Conventional Arms Branch of the Office for Disarmament Affairs.

13. The Board acknowledged that the various existing conventional arms instruments had potential overlaps but expressed the view that such overlaps could also be mutually reinforcing. Members concurred that the existing instruments had different mandates, with some legally binding, while others remained politically binding and therefore, efforts to coordinate all the instruments faced significant challenges. Limitations in the existing instruments were also recognized. Consequently, many members underlined the need to consider ways to make the architecture more coherent and consistent while promoting the most efficient use of the instruments. It was also stated that full consistency and streamlining might not be feasible or desirable given the different scope and circumstances of the instruments.

14. The Board also noted that the problem of conventional arms went beyond disarmament and touched upon such areas as development, good governance, public health, human rights and trade. Many members emphasized the need to address the

effects of conventional weapons on crime, human rights, humanitarian concerns and law enforcement. Emphasis was also placed on the need to encourage efforts to control the illicit trade in conventional arms, as well as explore the link between conventional weapons and other United Nations goals such as peace and development.

15. Proposals were made to establish a technical working group that would be given the task of considering which overlaps between existing instruments could be eliminated, taking into account that some instruments were mutually reinforcing; ways to improve communication between the instruments and within the Governments; ways to assist States with implementation and reporting under the existing instruments and frameworks; and how the United Nations and the regional instruments related to each other and how they could be utilized for mutual reinforcement.

16. Some members stated the need for the Secretary-General to pay special attention to greater public outreach on the issue of the arms trade treaty, particularly in countries impacted by such weapons, as well as the fact that the general public was mostly unaware of the issue. The importance of civil society support and public discourse on the topic was also stressed. Other members commented that the Secretary-General should intensify his advocacy role and encourage States to achieve a positive outcome for the treaty negotiations. It was stated, however, that the Board should be careful about any recommendations, since the treaty process was still ongoing and the outcome was far from certain owing to the considerable divergence of views. It was generally felt that any United Nations architecture in the area of conventional arms needed to take into account the limitations and strengths of existing instruments; that it should be based on the outcome of the ongoing negotiations; and that it should also take into account non-United Nations activities in this area as well as the ultimate goal of general and complete disarmament.

17. It was suggested that the Secretary-General request that the First Committee or the Fifth Committee seek possible overlaps in terms of efficiency that could lead to budgetary savings. One member mentioned the need for the Secretary-General to avoid any overlaps and seek better coordination and use of resources. A suggestion was also made that the United Nations could develop a database that would help to create a more unified system for information exchange on conventional arms.

18. A comment was made on the importance of tackling the issue of transparency together with efficiency. The need to generate transparency in terms of the transfer, production and use of conventional weapons was stressed. It was also proposed to include the issue of a preventive agenda in the Board's deliberations on the question.

19. The Board continued its deliberations on the item at its fifty-eighth session. As a means of improving its method of work, the Board agreed at its fifty-seventh session in New York to set up two subgroups which would exchange opinions on the two items on the agenda for the Geneva session and possibly prepare common food-for-thought papers during the intersessional period.

20. Consequently, two members, Mr. Abe and François Rivasseau, provided food-for-thought papers on the basis of views exchanged during the intersessional period among members of the subgroup on the item.

21. Several Board members reiterated that the issue of conventional arms went beyond the regulation of arms transfers and disarmament and was also linked to development, public health, trade, human rights and humanitarian law issues. Therefore, it was suggested that the scope of the proposed arms trade treaty should not be limited. The widest possible transparency in the realm of conventional arms was mentioned as a key point. In particular, the principles of transparency, accountability and the responsibility of States were stressed by a number of Board members.

22. The potential for overlaps between a future arms trade treaty and existing instruments in the field of conventional arms was again considered by the Board. Some members recalled the suggestions made at the fifty-seventh session regarding the creation of a technical working group to study where overlaps might exist and consider ways to improve communication between and within the instruments and Governments. A member expressed doubt over the need for such a technical working group. The need to await the outcome of the negotiations on the arms trade treaty was stressed.

23. It was also mentioned that the arms trade was directly linked to the issue of military spending and the fight against poverty, as well as criminal activities. It was pointed out that the Secretary-General could play a significant role in drawing attention to the negative aspects of the global arms trade. In contrast, the legitimate right of States, especially smaller States, to ensure their territorial integrity and sovereignty was also acknowledged by many members.

24. The Board also discussed the most appropriate way of implementing a future legally binding instrument that would regulate conventional arms trade, depending on the outcome of the ongoing arms trade treaty negotiations. As the future implementation process might include submitting reports, building national capacity in related areas and providing assistance, the Board also exchanged views on United Nations experiences in supporting the Biological Weapons Convention, the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons and Security Council resolution 1540 (2004), through their respective implementation support units. Many members underlined the need for strong verification and implementation measures for a robust arms trade treaty.

25. The importance of the responsibility of States was mentioned by several members. It was emphasized that all States had a responsibility to control the production, use and flow of weapons on or through their territory. States should also be prepared to fulfil their obligations when restrictions on the flow, use or production of weapons were established by the appropriate international bodies. It was also mentioned that the Secretary-General could remind States of those responsibilities at both the national and international levels.

26. It was stated that while streamlining its work relating to conventional arms, the United Nations Secretariat should secure sufficient resources to carry out the tasks that might result from new arrangements such as the prospective arms trade treaty.

27. Suggestions were also made that the Secretary-General and the Secretariat should encourage more vigorous activities by various regional organizations to promote the conventional arms instruments of the United Nations. While doing so, the organizations might consider using United Nations reporting forms, complemented by additional elements for regional use. The need to look into the

relation between the United Nations and the regional instruments was also mentioned, particularly regarding whether they could be mutually reinforcing.

28. It was proposed to advise the Secretary-General to focus on promoting transparency in conventional arms and establishing a comprehensive United Nations database which would reflect the implementation of the existing instruments in the sphere of conventional arms.

29. Other comments highlighted the increasingly important role of civil society, particularly women's organizations, in global efforts to regulate the arms trade; the need for the arms trade treaty to require States not to transfer arms internationally where there is a sustained risk that they might be used to perpetrate or facilitate a pattern of gender-based violence, including rape and other forms of sexual violence; and the need for assistance with capacity-building, particularly for small States.

Recommendations

30. **The Board made the following recommendations:**

(a) **The Secretary-General should stress, where appropriate, the need for a consistent and non-redundant architecture for conventional arms based on the centrality of such United Nations tools as the Register of Conventional Arms and for negotiations mandated, conducted or endorsed by the General Assembly, such as, in particular, the arms trade treaty;**

(b) **The Secretary-General could request the appropriate structure such as the Office for Disarmament Affairs, UNIDIR, a possible future arms trade treaty support unit or a technical working group to consider and report on the following: (i) overlaps between existing instruments; (ii) ways to improve communication between the instruments and Governments; (iii) ways to assist States with implementation and reporting under the existing instruments and frameworks; and (iv) how the United Nations and the regional instruments relate to each other and how they can be utilized for mutual reinforcement;**

(c) **The Secretary-General should be encouraged to promote confidence-building measures in the military sphere among countries in different regions, with the assistance of regional organizations, as appropriate;**

(d) **The Secretary-General should continue efforts to promote awareness of circumstances in which there can be negative consequences of the arms trade, for example when it involves organized crime or violations of human rights.**

C. Follow-up discussions on the issue of the revitalization of the Conference on Disarmament

31. The item on follow-up discussions on the issue of the revitalization of the Conference on Disarmament was proposed by the Board as an item for future consideration. In view of the fact that the Board had considered at its fifty-fifth and fifty-sixth sessions, in 2011, the issues raised at the high-level meeting on "Revitalizing the work of the Conference on Disarmament and taking forward multilateral disarmament negotiations", held on 24 September 2010, including the possible establishment of a high-level panel of eminent persons with special focus

on the functioning of the Conference on Disarmament, the Secretary-General requested the Board to engage in follow-up discussions on the item again at its fifty-eighth session, in July 2012, taking into consideration any new developments at the Conference since its fifty-sixth session.

32. Members of the subgroup on the item conducted intersessional work, and a food-for-thought paper was provided by Kate Dewes for the fifty-eighth session. Tim Caughley, Resident Senior Fellow at UNIDIR, also provided an updated paper on developments at the Conference on Disarmament. Briefings on the topic were also provided to the Board by Jarmo Sareva, Director of the Geneva Branch of the Office for Disarmament Affairs and Deputy Secretary-General of the Conference on Disarmament, and Mr. Caughley.

33. Many members reiterated the need for continued efforts to revitalize the Conference on Disarmament. The need to maintain the status of the Conference as a uniquely important forum for the negotiation of multilateral disarmament agreements and treaties in spite of the prolonged impasse was underlined. Opinions were also expressed that the ongoing difficulties faced by the Conference were caused by largely external political factors. Nonetheless, the need to consider reforming the decision-making processes of the Conference to allow for an institutional normative structure that facilitated the advancement of negotiations was mentioned. Views were also expressed that if the stalemate persisted, alternative solutions would be unavoidable.

34. Several Board members reiterated support for an incremental approach as the most feasible means of breaking the deadlock at the Conference on Disarmament. They suggested the establishment of informal scientific and technical groups within the Conference to explore and clarify issues related to a future fissile material cut-off treaty.

35. Suggestions were made that the General Assembly could establish a negotiating body parallel to the Conference on Disarmament. Suggestions were also made to use the General Assembly as another venue to engage in negotiations, including on a fissile material cut-off treaty, by establishing one negotiating body subordinated to it and deciding what kind of issues should be negotiated by that body. Such proposals were countered by views that it would not work, since several or all nuclear-weapon States and nuclear-weapon-capable States might not participate in such an initiative.

36. Some members acknowledged the significant support by over 140 States for the call by the Secretary-General, in his five-point proposal for nuclear disarmament, for the negotiation of a nuclear weapons convention or similar instrument and the growing support within civil society and States for exploration of alternative venues to the Conference on Disarmament.

37. The question of the possible establishment of a high-level panel of eminent persons was raised again by some members but did not find strong support. Doubts were expressed whether and how such a group would be helpful in breaking the stalemate at the Conference on Disarmament. Several members expressed a preference for the appointment of a special envoy or coordinator to engage in consultations, especially with the concerned parties. Such an envoy would also likely be more affordable in terms of costs than the suggested high-level panel. However, concerns were also expressed over the possible overlap in functions with

the High Representative for Disarmament Affairs or the Secretary-General of the Conference on Disarmament.

38. Nonetheless, should a high-level panel of eminent persons be established, the need to establish an institutional link between the Advisory Board and the proposed high-level panel by inviting one or more current or former Board members to be included in the panel was reiterated by a Board member.

39. Some members expressed the view that the decision of 29 May 2009 on the establishment of a programme of work for its 2009 session (CD/1864) could still serve as a basis for future negotiations and should not be discarded. Other members, however, stated that the outlook for resurrecting the decision was not promising.

40. Some members revisited the suggestion made in 2011 in connection with the adoption of a fissile material cut-off treaty, proposing a similar approach to the six-party talks on the Korean peninsula in the case of the South Asian region, to hold five-party talks between China, India, Pakistan, the Russian Federation and the United States of America as an avenue for confidence-building measures. However, doubts were also voiced over the feasibility of the proposal. There were also calls for creative leadership by the States that are permanent members of the Security Council in terms of bilateral or other negotiations on a cut-off treaty.

41. The need for the Secretary-General to encourage States to take steps to restore the credibility and legitimacy of the United Nations and its disarmament machinery was emphasized. It was stated that disarmament was implicitly on the agenda of many other United Nations bodies and therefore, the Secretary-General should invite Member States to promote the cause of disarmament in the General Assembly and other relevant United Nations bodies so that it remained on the agenda.

42. It was generally felt that there was decreased interest in revisiting the issue of changing the rules of procedure of the Conference on Disarmament and that such actions might not improve the situation. Attempts to change the consensus rule would not work, given the long-standing consensus-based character of the Conference and the demonstrated ability of the Conference in the past to conclude treaties by consensus. Doubts were expressed whether changing the rules of procedure would be decisive in attaining progress in the Conference.

43. Some members expressed support again for the convening of a fourth special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament. A comment was made, however, that such a special session would normally pursue decisions by consensus while a regular General Assembly session would be able to take decisions through voting if needed. It was also mentioned that consideration could be given to the feasibility of a special session of the General Assembly confined to addressing issues relevant to the disarmament machinery of the United Nations.

44. A view was expressed that the Secretary-General should be encouraged to highlight the fourth Disarmament Decade by giving priority to the urgent need for disarmament education and research, using the excellent work being done by the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research in this field.

Recommendations

45. The Board made the following recommendations:

(a) The Secretary-General should continue his efforts to encourage the Conference on Disarmament to pursue all efforts to achieve a breakthrough in the persisting stalemate. The Secretary-General could consider initiating a process of consultation with all concerned States to build consensus to commence substantive work on negotiations in respect of a fissile material cut-off treaty under a balanced programme of work. The Secretary-General may also wish to consider an appropriate dedicated modality for this purpose, including the appointment of a special envoy or coordinator to assist him in his efforts;

(b) Parallel to his consultations, the Secretary-General may wish to consider encouraging members of the Conference on Disarmament to establish groups of scientific experts in the Conference with a mandate to explore technical and scientific issues to support work on a future fissile material cut-off treaty;

(c) The Secretary-General should continue his efforts to raise public awareness and encourage civil society groups and non-governmental organizations to provide input on ways to break the prolonged stalemate at the Conference on Disarmament. The Secretary-General could also encourage Member States to take steps to restore the credibility and legitimacy of the United Nations disarmament machinery by inviting them to promote the cause of disarmament in the General Assembly and other relevant United Nations bodies so that it remains on the agenda.

III. Presentations by civil society/non-governmental organizations

46. As is customary, the Board heard presentations on issues pertaining to its agenda from representatives of non-governmental organizations. At its fifty-seventh session, Jeff Abramson, Coordinator of the Control Arms Campaign, and Stephen Goose, Director of the Arms Division of Human Rights Watch, head of delegation of the International Campaign to Ban Landmines and Chair of the Cluster Munition Coalition, provided briefings to the Board.

47. At its fifty-eighth session, the Board heard presentations from Glenn McDonald, Senior Researcher and Yearbook Coordinator at the Small Arms Survey, and Jonathan Frerichs, programme executive for peacebuilding and disarmament of the World Council of Churches and its Commission of the Churches on International Affairs.

IV. Board of Trustees of the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research

48. At its fifty-seventh session, the Advisory Board, sitting as the Board of Trustees, received a briefing from the Director of UNIDIR on the work of the Institute since the previous session of the Board in July 2011, and an update on its programme of work for 2012. The Director informed the Board of the decision to

abolish the Deputy-Director's post owing to the lack of sufficient funds. Many members commended the research activities carried out by UNIDIR despite the continuing difficulties in raising funds. Concerns were expressed by the Board on the serious funding situation faced by the Institute. Views were exchanged on ways in which the Board could provide assistance and advice to UNIDIR in meeting its financial challenges. Several Board members stressed the need to further communicate the Institute's precarious situation to the Secretary-General, as well as to delegations.

49. The Board underlined the importance of broadening the UNIDIR funding base to include a more diverse set of Member States, as currently only 10 per cent of the Member States make contributions. The Board also recognized the importance of the Institute's pursuit of both public and private partnerships. It was also recommended that UNIDIR make more efforts to publicize its activities and obtain funding from other regions of the world.

50. The Board approved the Institute's report and budget for the biennium 2012-2013 (A/66/123), which was presented at the Board's fifty-sixth session in Geneva in July 2011 and updated by the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions.

51. The Board also welcomed the establishment of a distinctive emblem (logo) for the Institute and looked forward to its introduction in UNIDIR branding at the earliest date possible. The Board also endorsed the resource mobilization strategy of the Director as approved by the Office of Legal Affairs. The strategy has demonstrated small yet significant successes, which were all the more remarkable considering the global financial crisis and the extremely negative funding outlook for the traditional donor States. The Board welcomed the steps towards implementation of its 2005 recommendations related to UNIDIR staff contractual compliance with the Staff Regulations and Rules. As funding permits, the Board expected that UNIDIR would begin to establish specific posts for the core functions of the Institute and work with the Human Resources Management Service to ensure that current staff service were taken into account. The Board also expressed its strong disappointment that United Nations regular budget support for the core staff of UNIDIR had not been forthcoming. It reiterated its call for subvention support for the core staff of the Institute as permitted under article VII, paragraph 2, of the UNIDIR statute (see General Assembly resolution 39/148 H, annex).

52. At the fifty-eighth session of the Board, the Director of the Institute briefed the Board members on the work of the Institute since the Board's session in February 2012 and planned activities for 2013 and beyond, and on the proposed programme of work and budget, including a request for a continuing subvention from the United Nations regular budget. A subcommittee on UNIDIR, consisting of five Board members, met on 3 July, prior to the regular session, to review the Institute's programme and financial situation in detail.

53. The Board strongly commended again the broad range of research activities carried out by UNIDIR despite its persisting difficulties in obtaining sufficient funds. It was able to engage in an in-depth discussion of the challenges faced by the Institute in its funding activities and what could be done to alleviate the situation. The importance of adequate funding for the Institute was stressed in order for UNIDIR to maintain its independence.

54. At the same time, the Board expressed deep concerns over the institutional obstacles which continued to pose serious hurdles to the Institute's efforts to improve its management and funding difficulties. Board members were of the view that the current funding model for UNIDIR was inadequate and required significant and urgent changes. To work on those required changes, a suggestion was made to resume meetings of an intersessional subcommittee on UNIDIR, which could meet briefly during the latter part of the year, subject to the availability of funds.

55. Whether or not the subcommittee meeting materialized, the Board requested the Chair to brief the Secretary-General on the current situation of concern pertaining to the Institute and to request expeditious action on the part of UNIDIR and the United Nations Secretariat to develop a sustainable business plan and core funding plan for the Institute.

56. After considering the Institute's report, the Board approved the submission of that report to the General Assembly and also recommended the continuing subvention from the United Nations regular budget for the biennium 2012-2013, while also reiterating its earlier recommendation (see A/66/125, para. 36) that the subvention level be increased, in addition to being cost adjusted, to "fully fund all core staff costs, as a requisite for providing the stability needed to allow the Institute to pursue the structure and programme of work justified by its vision and mission". The Board noted that in recent years the buying power of the subvention had decreased to a level that no longer supported even the costs of the Director, thus falling short of its original purpose.

V. Future work

57. The Board exchanged views on a number of possible issues for discussion at its sessions in 2013, including a broad range of issues such as cybersecurity, nuclear-weapon-free zones, security in outer space, dual-use technologies and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, as well as conventional arms issues following the outcome of the arms trade treaty negotiations.

58. Possible specific topics that were suggested were (a) relations between different nuclear-weapon-free zones; (b) space security, including preventing the placement of arms in outer space; (c) the role of emerging powers in the global nuclear order; and (d) changes in the landscape of the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.

VI. Conclusion

59. During both its sessions in 2012, the Board was able to successfully conclude deliberations on the three items in its agenda. It provided a set of recommendations to the Secretary-General on the issue of conventional arms regulation: the future United Nations architecture and on the issue of the revitalization of the Conference on Disarmament. As the Board of Trustees of the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR), it spent considerable time looking into the research activities of the Institute and particularly the continuing serious funding challenges faced by UNIDIR.

Annex

Members of the Advisory Board on Disarmament Matters

Hewa M. G. S. Palihakkara* (Chair)
Former Foreign Secretary of Sri Lanka
Ministry of External Affairs
Colombo

Nobuyasu Abe*
Director
Center for the Promotion of Disarmament and Non-Proliferation
Japan Institute of International Affairs
Tokyo

Dewi Fortuna Anwar*
Deputy Secretary for Political Affairs to the Vice President
Secretariat of the Vice President
Jakarta

Desmond Bowen*
Former Director of Policy
Ministry of Defence of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
London

Jingye Cheng*
Permanent Representative and Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of
China to the United Nations and other International Organizations in Vienna

Kate Dewes*
Co-Coordinator of the Disarmament and Security Centre
of the New Zealand Peace Foundation
Christchurch, New Zealand

István Gyarmati*
President, Centre for Democracy Public Foundation
Head of the International Centre for Democratic Transition
Budapest

Monica Herz*
President, Brazilian Association of International Relations
Professor, Pontifical Catholic University of Rio de Janeiro
Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

Togzhan Kassenova*
Associate, Nuclear Policy Program
Carnegie Endowment for International Peace
Washington, D.C.

Olga Pellicer*
Department of International Studies
Autonomous Technological Institute of Mexico
Mexico City

* Participated in both the fifty-seventh and the fifty-eighth sessions of the Board.

Marcie Berman Ries^a
Deputy Assistant Secretary
Bureau of Arms Control, Verification and Compliance
Department of State of the United States
Washington, D.C.

François Rivasseau^a
Deputy Head of Delegation
Delegation of the European Union to the United States
Washington, D.C.

Cheikh Sylla^a
Ambassador-at-Large
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Dakar

Carlo Trezza^a
Special Envoy of the Italian Minister for Foreign Affairs
for Disarmament, Arms Control and Non-Proliferation
General Directorate for Multilateral Political Affairs
and Human Rights
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Rome

Vladimir I. Yermakov^b
Deputy Director, Department for Security Affairs and Disarmament
Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation
Moscow

Theresa Hitchens^a (ex-officio member)
Director
United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research
Geneva

^b Participated in the Board's fifty-eighth session only.

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**New Partnership for Africa's Development: progress in
implementation and international support****New Partnership for Africa's Development: tenth
consolidated progress report on implementation and
international support****Report of the Secretary-General***Summary*

Following the adoption of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) as Africa's socioeconomic development framework, African countries, with the support of the international community, have taken policy actions to implement the NEPAD sectoral priorities and enhance their prospects of attaining the Millennium Development Goals. The present report, mandated by the General Assembly in its resolution 66/286, indicates that, the global economic slowdown and the lingering impact of the global financial and economic crisis notwithstanding, progress has been achieved in the implementation of NEPAD. The establishment of the NEPAD Planning and Coordination Agency and its integration into the structure and processes of the African Union have generated fresh momentum in the implementation of the NEPAD priority activities. With this new dynamic, good progress has been achieved, such as in the implementation of the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme and of multi-country infrastructure initiatives.

In an uncertain and slow global recovery, however, the main challenge for African countries is to consolidate their gains and thereby ensure that the current turbulent economic situation does not reverse the progress made. To that end, as called for in the outcome documents of several global United Nations conferences, including the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries and the High-level

* A/67/150.



Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals at its sixty-fifth session, development partners should fulfil existing commitments so as to increase the quantity and effectiveness of development assistance. Since free and fair trade is an engine of growth that could broaden markets and generate employment, development partners should conclude the long-overdue Doha Round of multilateral trade negotiations with its development dimensions. For their part, African countries should also mobilize more resources from within the continent and strengthen regional integration to create larger markets and develop stronger economies with private-sector participation. They should also allocate greater resources to NEPAD priorities and undertake appropriate reforms to further encourage private-sector participation in NEPAD projects and promote public-private partnerships. As the second decade of NEPAD begins, African countries and the international community, including the United Nations, should strengthen their partnership for development on the basis of mutual responsibility and accountability. Furthermore, the United Nations should continue to accord priority to the special development needs of Africa. The post-2015 development agenda and the follow-up to and implementation of the outcomes of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development must pay particular attention to the needs of Africa.

I. Introduction

1. In its resolution 66/286, entitled "New Partnership for Africa's Development: progress in implementation and international support", the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to submit a comprehensive report on the implementation of the resolution to the Assembly at its sixty-seventh session. The present report responds to that request.

2. Emphasis is laid herein on the policy measures taken by African countries and organizations in the implementation of the priorities of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), the response of the international community and the support provided by the United Nations system during the past year. Activities by the private sector and civil society in support of NEPAD are also highlighted. The report has benefited from information provided by Member States, the African Development Bank (AfDB), the NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency (NEPAD Agency), the secretariat of the African Peer Review Mechanism, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and entities of the United Nations system.

II. Action taken by African countries and organizations

3. NEPAD is a collective vision and a strategic socioeconomic development framework for Africa. Its main objective is to generate broad-based, sustained and equitable economic growth that allows Africa to reduce poverty and better integrate into the global economy. Translating this vision into action requires implementation of the key sectoral priorities of NEPAD in a manner that evolves in parallel with the emerging global economic and political realities. NEPAD provides unique opportunities for African countries to take full control of their development agenda, working more closely together and cooperating more effectively with the international community. Within the NEPAD context, each country is expected to design its own national blueprint consistent with NEPAD goals and assume responsibility for implementing NEPAD programmes at the national level. The Economic Commission for Africa and AfDB continue to provide critical support for the implementation of NEPAD programmes and projects at the regional level. The Office of the Special Adviser on Africa coordinates global advocacy for NEPAD and encourages increased international community support for the programme. In addition, the regional economic communities, which are the core institutions for Africa's economic integration, play a leading role in implementing projects at the subregional level.

A. Infrastructure

4. African countries continued to strengthen infrastructure development over the past year, with actions focused on transport, energy and water infrastructure. The establishment of the NEPAD Agency and its integration into the structure and processes of the African Union led to strengthened coherence and coordination of development efforts. The NEPAD Agency continued to provide support for the implementation of a joint priority infrastructure project for 2010-2015 with the African Union Commission. The project is based on the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa, which remains the framework for regional and continental infrastructure development in Africa.

5. In the area of regional integration and infrastructure, the NEPAD Agency facilitated the implementation of seven regional projects within the framework of the African Union-NEPAD Presidential Infrastructure Champion initiative, which was endorsed at the sixteenth session of the Assembly of the African Union, in January 2011. Progress was made in performing the necessary technical work, including feasibility studies and environmental impact assessments, and financing for the implementation of some projects was secured. The NEPAD Agency contributed to developing an implementation and monitoring framework for the initiative and to preparing status reports for its projects.

6. Following the identification of bioenergy as a NEPAD priority area for 2010-2014, the NEPAD Agency prepared two project concepts to inform the development of its biofuel programme, which will take place in consultation with key stakeholders. The first concept focuses on bioenergy issues at the smallholder level and the second on biofuel policy. The programme document for the former was finalized in collaboration with the United Nations University. Efforts are being made to raise funds for programme implementation. African countries are also working to ensure sustainable energy solutions within the context of the Secretary-General's global initiative on sustainable energy for all, which aims to ensure universal access to modern energy services, double the global rate of improvement in energy efficiency and double the share of renewable energy in the global energy mix.

7. To ease the energy shortage in Africa, the NEPAD Agency is working on a programme aimed at developing clean energy, using Africa's abundant solar energy. In addition, the NEPAD Agency facilitated capacity-building for African energy stakeholders in critical areas of electrical and renewable energies. Arrangements were also made with the International Energy Agency to open its programme of capacity development in energy to African energy stakeholders.

8. In the water and sanitation sector, the NEPAD Agency focused efforts on building and strengthening capacity in programme development and implementation by making full use of partnerships. For example, WaterAid agreed to provide short-term consultants to the Agency to support the development and implementation of its programmes. Both bodies also agreed to work together in undertaking regional and continental water and sanitation programmes and projects.

9. Given Africa's vast deposits of uranium, the NEPAD Agency is working to promote the development of nuclear energy in collaboration with the International Atomic Energy Agency. Efforts had previously focused on bringing nuclear energy stakeholders together to work towards the development of a home-grown programme on the use of nuclear power for electricity generation. Following the earthquake and tsunami in Japan and the subsequent explosion at the Fukushima nuclear plant in March 2011, however, the idea is now under review.

B. Agriculture and food security

10. Efforts continued to be made to promote agriculture development within the framework of the Comprehensive Africa Agricultural Development Programme (CAADP).

11. As at June 2012, 21 of the 30 countries that had signed CAADP compacts had prepared their national agriculture investment plans, with 18 having undertaken

technical reviews of their plans and organized meetings to mobilize funding for their implementation. African countries also continued to make progress towards meeting the target of allocating 10 per cent of national budgets to agriculture as set out in the Maputo Declaration on Agriculture and Food Security, with 6 meeting the target and 10 investing between 5 and 10 per cent of the budget. Moreover, 10 countries registered an annual growth rate in the agriculture sector of at least 6 per cent in the second half of 2011. Noteworthy is the increasing number of countries in the Southern African Development Community that are integrating CAADP into their agriculture development programmes. Mozambique and Seychelles signed their CAADP compacts, while South Africa held stakeholder consultations at the national and provincial levels with a view to finalizing its compact.

12. The Partnership for African Fisheries is consolidating its technical support to African Union member States as they implement responsive reforms in fisheries governance and trade. In October 2011, the Partnership completed its transformation from a programme within the NEPAD Agency and will now be managed as a special purpose vehicle, operating a common pool of funds within the NEPAD Agency structure. Through the special purpose vehicle, the NEPAD Agency and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations established a five-year programme (2011-2015) with a total budget of \$12.9 million.

13. Under the Partnership, the NEPAD Agency provided technical assistance to the secretariat of the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) to strengthen its capacity to coordinate fishery reforms in ECCAS member States so as to fully realize the potential of the fisheries sector in economic development. The NEPAD Agency also signed a memorandum of understanding with the Ministry of Agriculture of China to strengthen cooperation with regard to agriculture and fisheries.

14. To deal with the impact of climate change on agriculture, the NEPAD Agency developed an adaptation and mitigation framework that was endorsed by the African Union. A grant agreement in the amount of \$1.5 million was also concluded under the Terrafrica Leveraging Fund. Through this framework, African countries are receiving support in designing and implementing climate-smart agriculture adaptation programmes. The Niger and Togo, for example, finalized their strategic investment frameworks, while others, including Ethiopia, Ghana, Lesotho and Togo, harmonized their development initiatives with sustainable land management policies and strategic guidelines.

15. Another noteworthy example of progress was the successful mobilization of private-sector resources for the implementation of CAADP through the Pan African Agribusiness and Agro-industry Consortium. Emphasis will be laid on supporting the implementation of agricultural value chains in Africa.

C. Health

16. The NEPAD Agency continued to make key interventions aimed at meeting the NEPAD objectives on health, including improving Africa's health-care system and ensuring greater access to safe and affordable medicines for all Africans. Those objectives are aligned with the Millennium Development Goals, especially those relating to reducing child mortality (Goal 4), reducing maternal mortality (Goal 5) and combating HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases (Goal 6). Recognizing the

limited progress made, the NEPAD Agency focused its efforts during the period under review on scaling up progress towards attaining the Goals.

17. The African Medicines Regulatory Harmonization initiative remains the main policy framework guiding interventions in the health sector. The period under review saw the successful launch, in the United Republic of Tanzania, of a medicines regulatory harmonization project for the East African Community, in addition to training for Community health officials. An advisory committee was also inaugurated. The NEPAD Agency also mobilized financial and technical resources for the implementation of the initiative. A trust fund of \$12.5 million was set up with seed money from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and will be managed by the World Bank, which joined the initiative as a partner.

18. Another programme, Research for Health Africa, was introduced to assist African countries in strengthening their capacity to formulate policy. Progress was recorded in the use of the programme to achieve health equity, reduce poverty and contribute to socioeconomic development in Africa.

19. Another noteworthy development was the launch of Eval-Health, a research project aimed at developing and testing methodologies for monitoring and evaluating health-related interventions in developing countries. The NEPAD Agency worked on the methodology and instruments to be used to undertake case studies. A key constraint facing the project is the absence of staff specifically assigned to it.

D. Education and training

20. During the period under review, work was carried out in the education and training sector to promote human resource development for nurses and midwives in Africa, through negotiations with the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania for the deployment of graduate nurses and midwives in rural communities, using mobile clinics. In addition, the NEPAD Agency accorded priority to forestry education, seeking funding from the Government of Sweden for a workshop to finalize a postgraduate programme in forestry education.

21. Several ECCAS member States, including Chad, the Congo and Gabon, are implementing a programme to upgrade the education and qualifications of nurses and midwives, offering undergraduate and master's degree programmes. A grant of \$1.5 million was received from the Government of China to support the programme. In addition, agreements were signed with universities already offering training in nursing and midwifery to serve as mentors for the Central African universities hosting the programme.

22. The project to establish a regional centre for mathematics, science and technology education continued to be pursued through efforts to engage the Governments of Gabon and South Africa to support the launch of the centre in Gabon.

23. Given the high unemployment rate among young people, African countries are stepping up efforts to develop skills through apprenticeships and vocational and technical education and training. The Economic Commission for Africa, the International Labour Organization and AfDB are working jointly to support African countries to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of existing employment programmes for young people.

24. Another programme with a direct impact on education is the Home-Grown School Feeding Programme, which promotes school attendance by providing schoolchildren with nutritious food and is implemented within the CAADP framework. Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Kenya, Mali and Nigeria are implementing national school feeding programmes sourced from local agricultural production. Other countries requested technical assistance in the design and management of such programmes. A case study was conducted in Botswana to assess the costs and benefits of the programme and thus inform national-level policymaking and decision-making processes.

E. Environment and tourism

25. Progress has been made in the implementation of the action plan of the environment initiative of NEPAD, seven years after its adoption. During the period under review, African countries and subregional organizations increased their efforts to implement key flagship programmes of the action plan, such as the Green Wall for the Sahara initiative, the Congo Basin Forest Partnership and the Climate Information for Development in Africa Programme. A noteworthy achievement was the enhanced implementation of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and its Kyoto Protocol.

26. The NEPAD Agency, in collaboration with the African Union Commission and the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment, initiated a process to review the implementation of the action plan with a view to ensuring that it adequately reflected emerging issues and drew on lessons learned from the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development process.

27. Efforts continued to support women and other vulnerable groups to cope with the effects of climate change on agriculture, mainly by strengthening and aligning the institutional and policy environments, building local capacity through training and shared learning and improving access to information, knowledge and technologies.

28. A natural resource governance programme was adopted as a flagship NEPAD programme by the NEPAD Heads of State and Government Orientation Committee at its twenty-fourth meeting, held in January 2011 in Addis Ababa. The programme focuses on ensuring that the African people reap the benefits of Africa's vast natural resources. Other interventions under this programme are aimed at strengthening governance in the management of natural resources. Efforts are being made to mobilize resources for the implementation of the programme and its projects.

29. The NEPAD Agency is facilitating the implementation of a West Africa water science project, which is intended to examine access to information and technology for improved management of water resources, including mechanisms for sharing information on water technology and management experiences among organizations and countries. It promotes appropriate technologies that support sustainable development and also provides public education and training.

30. In preparation for the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment focused on developing an African common negotiating position on a comprehensive international climate change regime beyond 2012 and on developing a comprehensive framework of African climate change programmes. The activities on climate change of the NEPAD Agency were guided by that work.

31. Tourism is an important catalyst for development as it has positive spillover effects on other sectors of the economy. To mitigate the impact of the slow global economic recovery on tourism, and to make Africa an attractive destination, the African Union Commission and the NEPAD Agency are actively working in partnership with national, regional, continental and global organizations to promote a comprehensive programme of regional integration in the tourism sector. Several African countries developed tourism master plans with the assistance of the World Tourism Organization and other development partners.

F. Information and communications technology

32. Following a decision taken at the twenty-third meeting of the NEPAD Heads of State and Government Orientation Committee, held in July 2010 in Uganda, the NEPAD e-Africa Programme became the main framework for the information and communications technology priority sector. Its overarching objective is to ensure that every African country is connected to its neighbours through broadband fibre-optic links and that, in turn, Africa is linked to the rest of the world by broadband submarine cables.

33. The e-Africa Programme, tasked with developing policies, strategies and projects at the continental level for the development of information and communications technology throughout Africa, continued to advance the implementation of its key initiatives: the NEPAD information and communications technology broadband infrastructure network for Africa and the NEPAD e-Schools initiative.

34. With regard to terrestrial connectivity, the e-Africa Programme, with funding from the European Union, will undertake two broadband studies covering Central Africa and West Africa that are expected to be completed in the first quarter of 2013. They are expected to culminate in the development of bankable projects complete with network designs and business plans for the implementation of regional cross-border networks. It is expected that the availability of business plans will expedite the mobilization of investment funds for projects under the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa. The studies will also facilitate the development of a geographic information systems database and an interactive map of regional broadband connectivity.

35. To improve the enabling environment for information and communications technology development, the NEPAD Agency is collaborating with the African Union Commission in developing an African Union convention on the establishment of a credible legal framework for cybersecurity in Africa, modelled on the Convention on Cybercrime. During the first half of 2012, the draft convention was reviewed by stakeholders in the regional economic communities. It is now ready for submission to the Conference of African Ministers in Charge of Communication and Information Technologies and, subsequently, to the Assembly of the African Union at its twentieth ordinary session, in January 2013.

36. Progress also continued in the implementation of the Uhurunet submarine cable and the Umojanet cross-border terrestrial network. With regard to the former, a notable achievement was the finalization of the construction and maintenance agreement and the supply contract for the Africa Coast to Europe/Uhurunet cable.

This segment of the cable will stretch from France to South Africa and will connect all countries on the west coast of Africa.

37. Following the participation of 80 schools in 16 African countries in the NEPAD e-Schools initiative, the NEPAD Agency is preparing a monitoring and evaluation study of the demonstration phase to assess the impact of the use of universal access funds to support electronic education. During the reporting period, the NEPAD Agency also reviewed an electronic education project in Uganda. One recommendation emerging therefrom was that multi-stakeholder national implementation agencies or mechanisms should be set up to coordinate electronic education in individual countries.

G. Science and technology

38. During the period under review, the NEPAD Agency continued to promote innovation, encourage partnerships, facilitate knowledge-sharing and improve the volume and quality of research and development throughout Africa with the continuing implementation of the Science and Technology Consolidated Plan of Action.

39. Following the official launch of the second phase of the African Science, Technology and Innovation Indicators initiative, in May 2011, the number of African countries benefiting from capacity development in conducting research, development and innovation surveys grew from 19 to 28. In October 2011, a workshop was held in collaboration with the Government of Cameroon, leading to the elaboration of a set of standard research, development and innovation surveys to be used by African Union member States in the business, Government, higher education and non-profit sectors. The NEPAD Agency established an advisory committee to guide the initiative, comprising experts from Africa and international organizations.

40. Within the framework of the African Biosciences initiative, the Southern Africa Network for Biosciences prepared flagship publications. Through the Network, 30 scientists studying for doctoral and master's degrees from the region were trained, with an appreciable increase in female research scientists. More than 300 participants benefited from 13 special skills courses in fish farming, mushroom production, technology transfer and commercialization, intellectual property management, project management, information and communications technology and database management, and science communication.

II. Gender mainstreaming, women's empowerment and civil society participation

41. During the period under review, the NEPAD Agency continued to implement activities in relation to gender mainstreaming, women's empowerment and gender equality. It completed the alignment process between its gender programme and the 10 themes of the African Women's Decade by allocating funds for maternal health and mortality priorities. Under the NEPAD/Spanish Fund for African Women's Empowerment, technical support in monitoring projects was provided through funding from the first phase. That support led to the completion of three projects, bringing the number of completed projects to 38 (of the 46 projects approved).

Under the second phase of the Fund, 31 projects were approved, for a total of €8.2 million. The project proposals covered three priority sectors: economic empowerment, civil society strengthening and institutional strengthening.

42. Progress was recorded in the implementation of a project to establish business incubators for African women entrepreneurs in the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) and the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS). The two bodies will receive a maximum of €1 million each for the duration of the pilot phase. The first tranche of funding, amounting to €263,120, was transferred to COMESA following the validation of the first phase of the implementation plan in January 2012. In July 2012, ECOWAS and the NEPAD Agency signed a grant agreement worth €1 million, paving the way for the implementation of the project.

I. African Peer Review Mechanism

43. During the period under review, the African Peer Review Mechanism consolidated its position as the African Union flagship programme on governance. As at July 2012, 31 countries had joined the Mechanism: Algeria, Angola, Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Congo, Djibouti, Egypt, Ethiopia, Gabon, Ghana, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mozambique, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Sudan, Togo, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania and Zambia.

44. Sierra Leone was peer-reviewed during the sixteenth Summit of the Committee of Participating Heads of State and Government of the African Peer Review Mechanism (the African Peer Review Forum), held in January 2012. As at July 2012, 15 countries had been peer-reviewed: Algeria, Benin, Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Lesotho, Mali, Mauritius, Mozambique, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, South Africa and Uganda. Other countries are at various stages of the review process: the United Republic of Tanzania received a country review mission in March 2012 and Gabon completed its country self-assessment, paving the way for a country review mission in the final quarter of 2012. Progress reports on the implementation of national programmes of action by Algeria, Burkina Faso and Uganda were submitted and reviewed by the Forum.

45. To increase ownership by member States and strengthen the financial situation of the Mechanism and ensure its sustainability, at its sixteenth Summit the Forum adopted operating procedures for the Mechanism, establishing a committee of focal points and advisers to Heads of State and Government as part of the Mechanism's structures. The committee will oversee the financial and budgetary matters of the Mechanism.

46. With the technical and financial support of its strategic partners (AfDB, the Economic Commission for Africa and the United Nations Development Programme), the Mechanism revised its tools and instruments to make them more relevant and take into account emerging governance issues, such as the governance of organizations, the funding of political parties, the role of education in governance and development, and international and regional best practices. Consequently, a revised master questionnaire aiming at strengthening and further enhancing the credibility of the review of countries was adopted by the Forum at its seventeenth Summit, in July 2012.

III. Response of the international community: building on the momentum of international support for Africa's development

A. Introduction

47. The difficult geopolitical environment and the slowdown of the world economy notwithstanding, growth in Africa was resilient, with sub-Saharan Africa registering a growth rate of 4.5 per cent in 2011. Although the increase in commodity prices was important in the continent's recovery from recession, the improved economic performance was also testament to the enormous efforts by African countries to reform their economies, tackle conflicts and strengthen governance. Nevertheless, its improved performance notwithstanding, Africa's growth is considerably below the pre-crisis level of 6.5 per cent and inadequate to reduce poverty significantly.

48. Against the backdrop of an uncertain global economic outlook and the need to consolidate recent socioeconomic gains by African countries, a strengthened and sustained global partnership will be critical. Over the years, development partners have made commitments to Africa's development needs, including the implementation of NEPAD priorities. The implementation of those commitments will be critical in helping African countries to overcome their development challenges and make progress towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals and implementing NEPAD programmes. To date, limited progress has been made in that regard. For example, according to OECD, only half of the commitment to more than double annual official development assistance (ODA) to Africa made by the Group of Eight at its 2005 summit in Gleneagles, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, has been implemented. In 2009, at its summit in L'Aquila, Italy, the Group of Eight launched the L'Aquila Food Security Initiative, earmarking \$20 billion for agriculture in low-income countries to help them to reverse the growing vulnerability of food and agricultural systems and to meet targets to halve hunger and poverty. Owing to the global financial crisis, however, donor countries are holding back funds for agriculture, with only one fifth of the \$20 billion disbursed.

49. In 2012, during its summit held in Maryland, United States of America, the Group of Eight committed itself to fulfilling the outstanding financial pledges under the L'Aquila Food Security Initiative. Building on that initiative, the Group of Eight launched a new alliance for food security and nutrition, an ambitious, results-oriented initiative aimed at lifting 50 million people out of poverty over the coming 10 years by mobilizing private capital for Africa's agriculture and scaling up investment and technology to enhance agricultural productivity. Private-sector firms pledged to invest more than \$3 billion in Africa's agriculture.

50. To bring greater focus to the issue of food security, the Secretary-General launched what he termed a "zero hunger challenge" during the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in June 2012. The five main objectives of the challenge are to ensure 100 per cent access to food for all throughout the year; to end stunting among children under 2 years of age stemming from a lack of nutrients during pregnancy and in the early days of life; to ensure that food systems are sustainable; to double smallholder productivity and income; and to reduce food waste, both at the farmer level resulting from a lack of suitable storage and among consumers. The High-level Task Force on the Global

Food Security Crisis will be reoriented to focus on this initiative, while continuing to serve as a platform for the Secretary-General and the wider United Nations system that covers all dimensions of food and nutrition security.

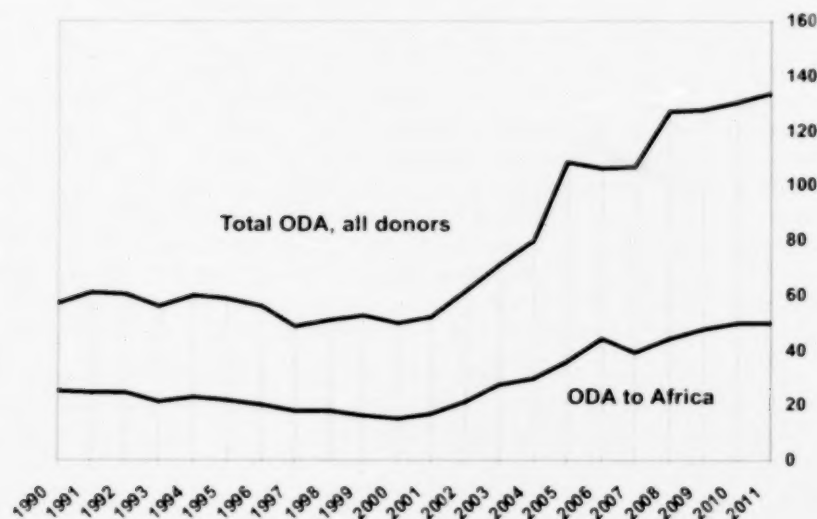
51. At the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, the participants reaffirmed their commitment to the full implementation of existing pledges, including those made in Agenda 21, the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020, the political declaration on Africa's development needs adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 63/1 and NEPAD.

B. Official development assistance

52. According to OECD, total ODA from all donors increased from \$128.5 billion in 2010 to \$133.5 billion in 2011. Flows to Africa grew modestly, from \$47.96 billion in 2010 to \$50 billion in 2011 (see figure). As a proportion of the total OECD global aid allocation in 2011, Africa's share remained virtually unchanged at 37 per cent.

Total official development assistance from all donors

(Billions of current United States dollars)



Source: Based on the OECD/Development Assistance Committee online database, 2012.

53. The increase in ODA to Africa since 2004 notwithstanding, the flow continues to fall short of pledges. To date, Africa has received only around half of the pledged increase made at the Group of Eight summit in Gleneagles. The shortfall can be attributed to global ODA compared to commitments, on the one hand, to Africa's lower than anticipated share of the total increase in ODA, on the other.

54. In the light of the less promising outlook for the near future, implementation of the aid effectiveness agenda assumes ever-greater importance. During the reporting period, donors and recipients continued to implement the Paris Declaration on Aid

Effectiveness and the Accra Agenda for Action. Substantial progress was made in untying aid, with the OECD Development Assistance Committee reporting that, on average, 86 per cent of aid was untied. Progress in other areas of the Declaration, most notably the use of country systems, remains limited, however.

55. Building on the principles of the Paris Declaration and the Accra Agenda for Action, the Busan Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation, adopted at the Fourth High-level Forum on Aid Effectiveness, held in Busan, Republic of Korea, in 2011, reaffirmed commitments to effective development cooperation. One of the most important outcomes of the Forum was the recognition of the important contribution of South-South cooperation to international development as a complement to North-South cooperation and of the need to embed the principles of aid effectiveness in development cooperation on a voluntary basis. Donor countries also committed themselves to strengthening mutual accountability to one another, the intended beneficiaries, their citizens and other stakeholders. While recognizing the considerable progress made, the participants called for further efforts to improve the quality, consistency and transparency of reporting on the untying of aid.

C. Debt relief

56. International efforts to tackle the debt problems of African countries continued under the framework of the heavily indebted poor countries and multilateral debt relief initiatives and at the bilateral level.

Current and potential beneficiaries of the heavily indebted poor countries and multilateral debt relief initiatives (as at June 2012)

<i>Status</i>	<i>Countries</i>
27 post-completion point countries	Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Mozambique, Niger, Rwanda, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Togo, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia
3 interim countries (between decision and completion point)	Chad, Comoros, Guinea
3 pre-decision-point countries	Eritrea, Somalia, Sudan

Source: International Monetary Fund, as at June 2012.

57. As can be seen from the table, 27 African countries had reached the post-completion point as at June 2012 and were thus receiving full debt relief. In June 2012, Côte d'Ivoire was granted debt relief of \$3.87 billion from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank, in addition to the debt cancellation recently announced by the members of the Paris Club. Consequently, its debt will be cut by \$6.5 billion. Chad, Comoros and Guinea reached the decision point and are receiving interim debt relief.

58. The debt burden of African countries has been considerably reduced through global and bilateral efforts to address the debt problem of developing countries. IMF data show that Africa's external debt fell from 73 per cent of gross domestic product (GDP) in 1994 to 21 per cent in 2010. For example, for countries receiving debt relief, debt service paid, on average, declined by about two percentage points of GDP over the period 2001-2010, creating much-needed fiscal space for African countries to accelerate spending on and investment in poverty reduction measures.

59. Debt sustainability came under pressure as a result of the global financial and economic crisis, however. Of the 19 countries that IMF classified as experiencing debt distress in 2010, three were African heavily indebted poor countries: Comoros, Côte d'Ivoire and Liberia. The debt situation of those countries has, however, since improved as the global economy has recovered. The fragility of that recovery and the euro zone debt crisis may nevertheless imperil long-term debt sustainability and increase the need to focus on improving debt management capacity in African countries which is crucial for sound fiscal management.

D. Foreign direct investment

60. Foreign direct investment inflows to Africa continued the downward trend experienced since the onset of the global financial and economic crisis in 2008. According to the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, inflows declined marginally from \$43.1 billion in 2010 to \$42.7 billion in 2011, a further decline from \$52.6 billion in 2009. The continent's share in global flows declined from 3.3 per cent in 2010 to 2.8 per cent in 2011. Global economic uncertainty poses significant risks to the region's capacity to mobilize inflows. The negative impact on commodity prices, coupled with heightened risk aversion on the part of investors, may further reduce flows to Africa.

61. Performance was mixed among the subregions, with declines in inflows to North and Central Africa and increases elsewhere. According to the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, in terms of the sectoral distribution of inflows, the primary sector received the lion's share (43 per cent), followed by manufacturing (29 per cent) and services (28 per cent). Viewed over a longer period, however, the relative importance of the primary sector appears to be in decline.

62. As the relative importance of traditional partners as sources of investment declines over time, emerging countries have strengthened their position with their share in inflows to Africa steadily increasing. Several emerging countries, including China, India and the United Arab Emirates, invested in Africa in 2011. These and other investors are increasingly attracted to the continent owing to its abundant natural resources and opportunities for profit presented by rising income and number of consumers. Furthermore, African countries have made significant efforts to reform their economies and to create a business-friendly environment. According to the World Bank's annual "Doing business" report for 2012, 13 African countries have featured in the World Bank's list of top 10 reformers over the past five years. Consequently, several African countries compare favourably with rapid-growth markets in other regions on the Bank's "ease of doing business" ranking.

E. Trade

63. Although the Eighth Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization (WTO), held in Geneva in December 2011, reaffirmed the importance of a rules-based multilateral trading system, no progress was made in the Doha Round of trade negotiations towards reaching an agreement on issues affecting Africa, including agricultural market access and subsidies. WTO launched a work programme to improve the accession process for least developed countries, which will benefit several African countries, including Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, Liberia, Sao Tome and Principe and the Sudan. A decade since its launch, the conclusion of the Doha Development Agenda remains elusive.

64. At its 2012 summit, the Group of Eight reaffirmed the importance of robust trade as an important driver of strong, sustainable and balanced growth, pledging to refrain from protectionist measures, protect investments and pursue bilateral, plurilateral and multilateral efforts consistent with and supportive of the WTO framework.

65. The third global review of the Aid for Trade initiative, held in Geneva in September 2011, showed that progress was being made in strengthening the trade-related capacity of some of the world's poorest countries. It indicated that African countries were increasingly engaging their development partners and, consequently, greater resources were being mobilized for aid for trade. Developing countries, including the least developed countries, have been making progress in mainstreaming trade in their national development strategies. For example, global aid for trade resources grew to \$40.1 billion in 2009 (the latest year for which data were available), of which Africa accounted for 40 per cent (\$17 billion). The bulk was directed to economic infrastructure and support to build productive capacity.

F. South-South cooperation

66. South-South cooperation remained important for Africa's development, complementing North-South cooperation. Its role as a major driver of development cooperation was recognized at the Fourth High-level Forum on Aid Effectiveness. Regional integration efforts and cooperation with developing countries continued to support Africa's economic transformation.

67. Cooperation activities between Africa and leading emerging development partners, such as Brazil, China and India, continued during the period under review. The Government of Brazil took steps towards forging a strategic alliance with Africa in various sectors with the support of its national development bank. In May 2012, the National Bank for Economic and Social Development organized a seminar on investing in Africa and opportunities, challenges and instruments for economic cooperation. Held in Rio de Janeiro, it brought together Brazil's business and political elites, high-level representatives of multilateral and regional development banks, and African institutions. During the event, a special fund to finance development projects together with multilateral lenders such as AfDB and the World Bank was announced.

68. China's commitment to Africa was shown through donations. In January 2012, China donated a conference centre and office complex to the African Union, together with ¥600 million for the Union's activities over the coming three years. In

July 2012, it deepened its strategic partnership with Africa at the Fifth Ministerial Conference of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation. China made pledges for the coming three years in five key areas, including to provide a \$20 billion credit line to African countries to develop infrastructure, agriculture, manufacturing and small and medium-sized enterprises. It will promote intraregional trade facilitation in Africa and peace, security and development. It also pledged to promote people-to-people friendship, to implement an African talents programme to train 30,000 personnel in various sectors, to offer 18,000 Government scholarships, to send 1,500 medical personnel to the continent and to carry out projects to provide safe drinking water.

69. India intensified its cooperation, focusing on education and capacity-building. Under the India-Africa Forum process, India pledged to develop 80 capacity-building institutions. Among the initiatives are an institute of foreign trade, an institute of educational planning and administration, an institute of information technology, a centre for medium-range weather forecasting, support for the Pan-African University Institute for Life and Earth Sciences, an institute of agriculture and rural development and a civil aviation academy. Humanitarian programmes have provided food aid, medical care and cash transfers to support countries affected by natural disasters. As at April 2012, 516 scholarships had been awarded to African students, with the number set to increase to 900 by the end of 2012. Academic cooperation increased, with the establishment of chairs to promote Indian studies in countries such as Mauritius, Nigeria and South Africa.

G. Millennium Villages project

70. During the period under review, the Millennium Villages project continued to accelerate progress towards the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals at 10 sites in sub-Saharan Africa. With the help of new developments in science and technology, the project works with villages to create and facilitate sustainable, community-led action plans that are tailored to the villages' specific needs and designed to achieve the Goals.

71. Progress reports published after the first five years of operations indicate that the project is making progress towards the Goals. In the agriculture sector, improved seeds and fertilizers, coupled with farmer training, at least doubled crop yields in the first few years of the project. In turn, levels of chronic undernutrition have decreased. In education, levels of primary school enrolment have increased and the student-teacher ratio has dropped. There have been important advances in cutting child and maternal mortality rates. Achievements in the health sector are due in part to the building and refurbishing of clinics, and a supply of appropriate levels of staff and equipment, including water, electricity and essential drugs. In addition, ambulances, mobile phone coverage and improved roads have helped to strengthen the health system. Free primary health care at the point of service has been introduced at all sites. The project has also introduced a system of trained, remunerated community health workers. Through partnerships with Governments and the private sector, communities have made gains in improving access to basic infrastructure. Innovations such as metered solar energy systems, improved cooking stoves and mobile phone-based information technology are beginning to bring better services and new opportunities for growth to the communities. Throughout the

villages, hundreds of kilometres of water pipes have been installed, bringing safer water points closer to tens of thousands of homes.

72. The proof of concept derived from the project is beginning to be applied for national programming in several countries. The lessons learned from the project are being mainstreamed into national policies, and several Governments are using the project framework to scale up integrated rural development policies at the national level.

IV. Support provided by the United Nations system

A. General

73. The United Nations system makes an important contribution as one of the main pillars of international support for the implementation of NEPAD. Support by the entities of the United Nations system at the regional, subregional and national levels takes various forms, ranging from technical assistance, capacity-building and funding to advocacy and normative work. The most recent report by the Secretary-General on United Nations system support for NEPAD (E/AC.51/2012/5) contains detailed information on the nature and scope of the support provided during the past year.

74. In October 2011, to commemorate the tenth anniversary of NEPAD, the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa, together with other United Nations entities, played a key role in raising awareness at the global, regional and national levels of the achievements of NEPAD. This included the organization of a NEPAD week at the sixty-sixth session of the General Assembly to strengthen partnerships in support of the implementation of NEPAD.

B. Strengthening of the Regional Coordination Mechanism of United Nations agencies and organizations working in Africa in support of the African Union, its New Partnership for Africa's Development and the cluster system

75. During the period under review, the United Nations system continued to provide technical and institutional support to NEPAD. Its entities continued to align their activities with African Union priorities through the finalization of Regional Coordination Mechanism cluster business plans. Significant progress was also made in the establishment of subregional coordination mechanisms, in particular that for Eastern and Southern Africa, which was launched as a pre-event of the twelfth session of the Regional Coordination Mechanism, in November 2011.

76. Among its main achievements, the Mechanism extended support in servicing African Union summits, in implementing various programmes for Africa's development, including CAADP and the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa, and in mainstreaming cross-cutting issues such as gender and employment in the work of the United Nations agencies and organizations working in Africa.

77. The joint United Nations-African Union secretariat of the Mechanism completed an exercise to help United Nations agencies and organizations to develop a multi-year work programme for the NEPAD Agency, a necessary task in support of

its transformation from its erstwhile secretariat role to that of a technical agency of the African Union. The work programme is now being implemented.

78. At its twelfth session, the Mechanism made significant progress towards the implementation of a 10-year capacity-building programme for the African Union. The participants sought to clarify the concept of capacity-building and considered a draft comprehensive work programme. Recommendations were made on the development of an effective monitoring and evaluation mechanism for the work programme. To strengthen coherence and synergies, the need for financial resources to implement business plans was underscored as a key challenge. To facilitate the implementation of capacity-building support to the African Union, a comprehensive work programme for the United Nations system, outlining the priority areas of the African Union and NEPAD, the expected specific support by the nine Mechanism clusters and frameworks for monitoring and evaluating the implementation of United Nations capacity-building interventions, was finalized.

79. The United Nations Inter-agency Task Force on Africa, chaired by the Special Adviser on Africa, continued to provide an effective framework for the entities of the United Nations system to share expertise and experience. Among other activities, the Task Force actively participated in the preparation of the reports of the Secretary-General on United Nations system support to NEPAD and on the causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa, and in the consultation process on the establishment of a monitoring mechanism to review commitments related to Africa's development needs.

V. Conclusions and recommendations

80. African countries have made good progress in the implementation of NEPAD sectoral priorities, in particular in the areas of governance, infrastructure, information and communications technology and agriculture, while progress has been made by the international community in providing debt relief, ODA and aid for trade. As NEPAD enters its second decade, and moves further into the implementation phase, meeting Africa's development needs and implementing effectively and fully the NEPAD agenda require clear resolution and leadership to turn the ideals and vision of the founders of NEPAD into policy actions and reality.

81. Efforts to promote national and regional infrastructure development in Africa notwithstanding, the structural deficit in infrastructure remains a serious impediment to economic growth and poverty reduction. To overcome this, African countries should maintain the trend of increasing investment in infrastructure by allocating greater resources, continuing regulatory reform processes and enhancing cross-border initiatives in the context of the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa. They should also further improve the capacity of the African Union Commission, the NEPAD Agency and the regional economic communities.

82. Efforts must be made by African Governments and their development partners to increase investment in science, technology and innovation to take full advantage of progress, including in increasing value addition in natural resources, job creation and the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.

83. Progress has been made in efforts to implement gender equality commitments by strengthening social policy and enacting laws to promote women's socioeconomic rights in Africa. Those improvements notwithstanding, challenges and constraints persist, including labour market conditions that restrict women's access to employment and sociocultural barriers that remain major impediments to the participation of women, who face income and job insecurity. As reiterated at the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, Africa and its development partners must accord priority to measures to promote gender equality and women's empowerment in all spheres of society. African countries should continue actions to promote parity in policies and decision-making, including actions in relation to constitutional reform.

84. Given the importance of agriculture in the development of the continent and to ensure food security and to be prepared for future food crises, African States must make progress towards achieving the target of allocating 10 per cent of national budgets to agricultural development and exceed the target of 6 per cent growth in the agriculture sector.

85. The progress made by African countries in terms of governance notwithstanding, much room for improvement remains. In particular, African countries should take steps to further improve economic and political governance. Countries that have been peer-reviewed should fully implement the recommendations contained in the national programmes of action, with support from development partners as necessary.

86. Africa's share of the global agriculture market is extremely low and has further decreased in recent years. In this context, development partners should take bold steps to successfully conclude trade negotiations with development dimensions, which would reduce trade-distorting subsidies for agriculture products, increase African farmers' access to markets and reduce or phase out barriers to trade at the national and global levels.

87. Tremendous development gains in Africa are possible if the international community translates its commitments into results. In the area of development assistance, as reiterated at the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, development partners should meet their ODA commitments and deliver on the pledges that they made in the Busan Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation.

88. Although some African countries have been granted substantial debt relief, there is a need to extend the heavily indebted poor countries and multilateral debt relief initiatives to African countries that are not heavily indebted poor countries, such as middle-income and low-income countries, given that the impact of the euro zone crisis and the slow global economic recovery could jeopardize their debt sustainability or reduce their resource mobilization capacity.

89. In line with the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (General Assembly resolution 66/288, annex), in which the green economy is considered an important tool for achieving sustainable development, developed countries should increase their support for the implementation of green growth policies in Africa. To that end, they could develop an investment strategy to facilitate the transition towards a green economy.